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**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
DENVER

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
**EMPOWERING WOMEN**  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## Smoke Signal - November 2018

### 2018-2019 Zonta Club of Denver

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Marian Lee, President  
Mary Lou Edwards, President-elect  
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"As we express our gratitude, we must  
never forget that the highest appreciation  
is not to utter words, but to live by them." -  
John F. Kennedy

### November Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 8th  
Event: General Meeting  
Time: 5:00 p.m.  
Place: Fresh Fish Company  
7800 E Hampden, Denver  
Program:  
Theresa Blumberg, Founder  
Women Veterans of Colorado

Items of the month:

1. Linens - Twin size (three in one packs: pillow upper and lower sheet)
2. Cleaning Supplies - Laundry detergent, cleaning wipes, sponges and dish soap
3. Hangers
4. Undated journals/planners/calendars
5. Undergarments: bras and underwear (multi-sized) They have plenty of socks
6. Kitchenware, silverware, dishware
7. Body Hygiene: shampoo, conditioners, loofahs and razors
8. Entertainment: games, movies, or any entertainment ideal for dependents (aged 5 to 16) and our residents (female veterans over aged 25)

### October Minutes

## Message from our President



### ***A Time of Gratitude***

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."

--Melody Beattie

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, I wanted to write this month on the positive impact of practicing gratitude, counting our blessings, and seeing the abundance in our lives rather than focusing on what's missing. But over the weekend, I was deeply saddened by recent hate crimes, and the chaos that seems to be all around us. I felt challenged to write about gratitude under these conditions. And then I realized that it is precisely at times like these that gratitude is most crucial: It helps us resist falling into despair, avoid bitterness, and maintain our sense of purpose. There are things we can't control in the world, but there are lots of things we can, starting

with the thoughts we choose to dwell on and the way we choose to impact others.

Today, I'm grateful for my husband, family, friends, and particularly my Zonta sisters. I don't always think about how fortunate I am to be part of our club, to be able to learn from (and be energized by) so many wise women, and to have the opportunity to contribute. We make our community a better place for women through our advocacy efforts, our alliance with other women's organizations, our service activities, and the grant awards we will approve this month. These grants help hard-working community organizations to make a tangible impact on women's lives. I'm grateful to be part of this effort, and want to specially thank the Service Committee for their hard work in researching the applicants, making the many site visits, and making recommendation decisions that aren't always easy.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our November meeting. Thank you all.

~ Marian Lee

## Women in the Military

November 11 is Veteran's Day in America – a day when America honors the men and women who have served in the military in order to defend the American way of life. So an article about women in the military seemed appropriate for this issue of the SS. While researching articles about women in the military, I came across some intriguing ones, (i.e. "Feminism and War", an article that claims feminism was the cause of World Wars I and II; and a 2015 article by Maria Solis exploring an unexpected feminist argument for keeping women out of military combat). Although the idea that women wanting the vote caused world wars was intriguing (the premise is that women suffragettes winning the vote in England during the early 1900s led to perceived loss of control for men and a desire in men to exhibit and reaffirm their male superiority by starting a war), the gender equality aspect of women in the military interested me most. [Read more....](#)



~ MaryLou Edwards

## FUNdraiser



The Fund raising Committee plans two more symphony nights next spring. March 1, Beethoven's Symphony #7 and May 24, Carmine Burana. Count and your intention to attend is due to Cynthia by November 15th and checks can be sent in later to her.

Please choose which one, or both, you would like to attend, make out a check for \$35 per event payable to Wendy Moraskie. You will get tickets at a later date and earn money for the Club. Thank you for supporting these events!

## Committee Reports



### SERVICE

The Service Committee has narrowed down the grant requests (from 16!) and these will be presented at the November meeting following the approval of the Board and Trustees. Since it will be Veterans Month we are collecting for the Women's Veterans. Their request includes: Cleaning supplies, Body hygiene products, and Undated journals/planners/calendars.

~ C J Long

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership committee brings you a woman veteran to speak at our next meeting, Theresa Blumberg. She suggests donations to their non-profit of any of the items listed in the items of the month section earlier in the newsletter.

Please put Saturday, Feb 2, 2019 on your calendar for a visit to the Kirkland Museum and maybe lunch out!

Our committee is exploring the organization of a Z Club for



young women in a Denver high school. Does anyone have strong connections with a Denver area high school who is interested in developing a Z Club? Please call Veronica Hoegler 303-424-2811 and let's discuss what would be involved!

Also, just a note for those of you who were unable to attend the Governor's Seminar in Lamar - our club: Zonta Club of Denver won an award for most new members in a club for the district! YAY US!

Finally, we are gearing up for our annual holiday party at the home of Dottie Jenkins, who generously offered to host this lively event. Information on signing up for dishes to bring to our annual social gathering will appear in the December Smoke Signal. We hope to see you there! And please feel free to bring a guest!

~ Veronica Hoegler



## **ADVOCACY**

The Advocacy Committee will have its next meeting Saturday, November 10th. We will have brunch at my house, 9 am. We will be discussing how we hope to integrate efforts with the other committees.

Reminder: Mary Lou Edwards will be the contributing author for the Advocacy article for the November Smoke Signal. At this time, we do not have a volunteer for the Advocacy moment for the November 8th meeting. If you have something you would like to share, please reach out to Dawn. the best way to get in touch is email: [dawn.m.bali@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.m.bali@gmail.com)

The Centennial Anniversary Committee met virtually on October 24th. We discussed a District 12 Project. We may make a video of our Governor Dee Dee Boysen as she visits each of the clubs. As we work out the details, I will keep you posted. We hope to have a plan together early next year.

~ Carol Mangold & Dawn Bali

## FUND RAISING

Symphony Concerts – Pay \$35 each for your spring concert tickets now: November 8th. Your choices : Friday March 1, 2019 Beethoven Symphony #7 and/or Friday May 24, 2019 Carmine Burana by Carl Orff -- with Symphony Chorus.



**Save the Day - March 30, 2019 DAY OF FILM** It's likely already on your calendar but please make sure you have saved the morning. Early bird tickets will be \$50. We are busy deciding on how we will handle the discussion after the film. Will we have a panel to discuss how to honor the enormous feat Norma accomplished or have Norma come and talk to us? The answer is likely Norma's availability and financial cost of having her present.

Zonta Pouches. Many of you have purchased one and have expressed a desire to buy another. This is a perfect time to get one for Holiday Gifts in case you still have someone special on your list. The pouches will be available at our November meeting. The committee will sell them at the January Area 3 Conference for sure and are looking into sales at Convention in 2020.

~ Jeanette Scotland

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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Denver Chapter



## Join Us!

In partnership with the World Affairs Challenge, at the first quarterly panel discussion on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.



## The SDG Series #5: Advancing Gender Equality in Colorado sponsored by UN Denver

### SDG 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN COLORADO

When: Monday, Nov. 5th 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Where: Posner Center for International Development [1031 33rd St., Denver, CO](#)

Cost: **Admission is free for Students. \$10 early bird, \$15 at the door**

[RSVP NOW](#)



## Club Calendar

### Club Meetings

#### **November 8, 2018**

5:00 p.m.

Fresh Fish Company

7800 E Hampden Blvd

#### **December 13, 2018**

Holiday Party at Dottie Jenkin's home

Details in December Smoke Signal

## Save the Date

#### **December 14, 15, 17, 18, 2018**

Santa Claus Shop

#### **March 30, 2019**

Day of Film

## Special Events

*SDG Series: Advancing Gender*

*Equality in Colorado*

Monday Nov 5th at the Posner Center

6p - 8p

## Committee Meetings

#### **Fundraising Committee**

November 5th 5:30p

Jeanette Scotland's house

3350 S Clermont St

#### **Advocacy Committee**

November 10th 9a

Dawn Bali's house

#### **Service Committee**

November 5:30p - 7:30p

Perkins on Colorado & I25

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## MEETING MINUTES October 11, 2018

President Marian Lee called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Nancy McWhirter presented the Advocacy Moment on a book called the “Dust Bowl Girls” about a women’s basketball team at Oklahoma Presbyterian College during the Great Depression. The coach gave women a four-year full ride scholarship if they would play on the team. They were very successful and won all of their games.

Marian asked if there were any corrections to last month’s meeting minutes; there were none, and the minutes were approved as published in the October Smoke Signal.

Treasurer Evie Ashmore reported that the club’s finances are in good shape. Julie Bradley has donated \$33.00 to the club from her online purchases using the iGive app. Members can sign up for iGive and have donations made to the club through iGive on our online purchases. Julie will provide more information about iGive to club members.

Evie introduced speaker Jennifer Gosko, a Victim Witness Specialist in the Arapahoe County District Attorney’s Victim Witness Unit , and Communications Director Vicki. Jennifer is involved with the Elder Abuse/Human Trafficking Task Force. This Unit’s mission is empowering victims by offering a variety of resources. Jennifer spoke about elder abuse becoming a growing problem in Colorado.

- As Baby Boomers are getting older, reports of elder abuse are growing. One Baby Boomer now turns 65 every 10 seconds. By 2050, people 65 and older are expected to comprise 35% of the population, and the instances of physical and financial abuse of elders is expected to increase significantly as a result.
- Elder abuse can involve investments and home health care providers.
- There are three agencies considered first responders for purposes of elder abuse reports: law enforcement, Adult Protection Services, and the DA’s office in each county. They don’t always coordinate and communicate with each other. The Arapahoe County Elder Abuse division is trying to change this so all three are talking to each other and making a more coordinated effort, so that the victim doesn’t have to live through the trauma multiple times. This approach is working!
- In 2014, there were a total of 275 elder abuse case referrals to DA’s office. In just four months during 2017, there were 436 referrals. The statistics for 2018 aren’t available yet.

- Better coordination among the first responder agencies allows for better safety planning, such as getting the victim into a care facility, or helping the victim become financially stable and providing resources for next steps once out of the abusive situation.
- Jennifer brought copies of the free “megabook” on Elder Abuse for 2018 for club members. Club members can pick up the new megabook for 2019 at the Arapahoe County DA’s office.
- The Elder Abuse Division is also focused on abuse prevention; the key is that if you see it, say something – call 911.
  - The biggest elder abuse scam right now is the “grandparent” scam. Someone calls an elderly person and says claims to be his or her grandchild, says they’re in trouble and needs money, and says not to tell his or her parents. If this happens, the person should ask the caller when his or her birthday is.
  - Beware of online dating, and international prizes. If you didn’t enter a contest, you didn’t win something. Some scammers call from your own phone number saying you won something.
  - The Elder Abuse Division is trying to do more outreach to people heading into the 65 and older age range, and to their caregivers, to teach them about the scams and how to navigate them.
- Each county has a Senior Law Day, which includes an “Ask A Lawyer” program for free. Arapahoe County had its Senior Law Day a few weeks ago.

Marian asked for introductions of any guests at the meeting. Jeanette Scotland introduced Michelle Haggerty as a guest.

Marian announced Cynthia Herndon as the Edna Jean Hershey Award winner for Zontian of the Year. She has served as ZCD President and is extremely generous with her time and resources both within and outside of Zonta, including her orphanage in Central America and hosting the club’s annual garage sale fundraiser at her home every year.

Judy McNerny of the Bylaws Committee announced a proposed change to the bylaws requiring a club vote. The proposal is to eliminate the requirement that to serve as club Vice President, a member must have served on the Board for at least one year. The Bylaws would still require at least one year on the Board for a member to serve as President and President-Elect. The reason for the proposed change is that it’s challenging to get members to serve in executive positions, and the change would allow members to serve as Vice President without necessarily moving up the ranks to President-Elect or President. Marian called for a vote, and the change to the Bylaws was approved unanimously.

Marian called for Committee updates and reminders:

- Service Committee Chair CJ Long: The committee is reviewing grant applications for 2019. There are 16 total applicants, which is a record for the committee. They have narrowed the applicants to seven, and will report on them at the November club meeting. CJ announced a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the

Santa Claus Shop in December is being passed around at the meeting.

- Fundraising Committee Chair Jeanette Scotland: Two dates for an evening at the symphony are available for spring 2019: Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> symphony in March or Carmina Burana in May. If interested, give a check to Cynthia for \$35.00 made out to Wendy Moraskie. Wendy gets the tickets at a discount, and gives the difference as a donation to our club. Payments are due at the November meeting. Jeanette encouraged buying a Zonta International leather pouch for members' name tags. The 2019 Day of Film fundraiser will be on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The film is called "Be Relentless" and is about a Mexican woman and human trafficking survivor who broke the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest Triathlon by swimming, biking and running over 3,700 miles from Cancun, Mexico to Washington D.C. and speaking about human trafficking. She narrates her own story in the movie. The movie trailer is available online at <http://berelentlessmovie.com/project/be-relentless-trailer/>. The Early Bird cost for the event is \$50.00.
- Membership Committee (Liz Savage spoke for Chair Veronica Hoegler): The happy hour event is at LaLa's Wine Bar on 10/25 from 4:30 pm to 6 pm. RSVP by calling or emailing Veronica, or by replying to an Evite that will be sent by email. Liz asked if members want to have two holiday parties again this year: one with The Haven and one for members. At least 10 members people raised their hands to attend one or both events, so the club will do both. Dottie Jenkins will host the club party at her home, and the Service Committee is working on The Haven holiday party.
- Advocacy Committee Co-Chair Dawn Bali: Dawn encouraged members to sign up to present an Advocacy Moment at upcoming monthly meetings and to write advocacy articles for The Smoke Signal. The committee plans to survey members about advocacy subjects they are interested in hearing about as well.

Marian announced October birthdays: Liz Savage (3 years with the Club); Joetta Williams (14 years with the Club); and Dottie Jenkins (15 years with the Club).

Nancy McWhirter won the 50/50 Drawing. The total collected was \$65.00; Nancy received \$32.50, and the balance went to the club.

Marian adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

November 11 is Veteran's Day in America – a day when America honors the men and women who have served in the military in order to defend the American way of life. So an article about women in the military seemed appropriate for this issue of the SS. While researching articles about women in the military, I came across some intriguing ones, (i.e. "Feminism and War", an article that claims feminism was the cause of World Wars I and II; and a 2015 article by Maria Solis exploring an unexpected feminist argument for keeping women out of military combat). Although the idea that women wanting the vote caused world wars was intriguing (the premise is that women suffragettes winning the vote in England during the early 1900s led to perceived loss of control for men and a desire in men to exhibit and reaffirm their male superiority by starting a war), the gender equality aspect of women in the military interested me most.

I begin with a lawsuit filed against former U.S. defense secretaries Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel by the ACLU in 2012 seeking integration of men and women on military combat fields. Colonel Ellen Haring brought the issue to the ACLU because she was "fed up when she maxed out her ranking at Colonel". To advance further, she would have to have combat experience. Colonel Haring said, "The military was the last place anywhere in our government where women could be discriminated against just for being women." Several other service women (including two purple heart recipients) joined her and the ACLU advanced the suit saying that "no one should be judged on gender alone." When this lawsuit was won, Vania Leveille, senior legislative counsel at the ACLU was thrilled saying, "Women have been serving on the front lines for years in Iraq and Afghanistan, and this recognizes what they have been doing....no one should be judged on gender alone."

But of course the issue did not rest there. After Leon Panetta made the first moves toward removing the ban, Kim Tran, a gender and woman's studies graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, stated, "For me, the most important question when it comes to women in combat has to do with the hidden anti-feminist economies of militarism." She argues that American militarism disenfranchises and perpetrates violence against communities of color (and women specifically). She asks, "Equality for what purposes – and cites the rate of sexual assault in the military itself and the level of sexual violence in military-occupied countries." According to the Department of Defense's Annual Report on Sexual Assault, in 2014 there were 5,093 reports of sexual assault in the military. Ninotchka Rosca, a member of the Filipina feminist organization AF31RM said that, "while the group supports greater opportunities for women, she's bothered by these statistics. We think that before there are decisions made with regards to greater risks for women in the

military, the issue of sexual violence against women in the military perpetrated by their own colleagues should be resolved.”

There are obviously still some challenges for women serving in the military, and some questions arose in my mind. The lives of many young women who decided to serve their country have surely been improved with regular salaries and education opportunities, but to enjoy those benefits should they have to endure sexual assault and male bias? Surely not all of them want to be generals, but if they love their chosen career path, should they be hampered by a rule that says they have to risk their lives in combat to get promoted? Perhaps avenues other than combat should be valued as promotable so that women AND men are not pressured into that path. And there are other issues too: a soldier who gets pregnant is immediately let go, putting her and her unborn child at risk of poverty and questionable employment; and men accused of assaulting their female counterparts are not regularly reprimanded.

Colonel Haring believes, “All of the things we know about diversity show it improves organizations across the board, citing a number of studies. In the same positions, women will be viewed and treated more equally. Senior women officers will certainly change the composition and likely the culture of the organization.” Obviously, gender equality is still a struggle for women in the military – hopefully Colonel Haring is successful in her quest to change that culture.

~ MaryLou Edwards