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ZONTA
CLUB OF
DENVER

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Smoke Signal Newsletter - October 2017

DISTRICT 12 CONFERENCE REPORT

Zontians from Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Colorado gathered in Greeley last weekend for the biennial District 12 Conference, which included workshops on starting Z and Golden Z Clubs, leading Zonta Clubs, serving as "Active Agents for Change" and "Telling the Survivor's Story." For the full report, see page 9.



From left: Deedee Boysen, Ursula Werner, Renee Coppock, Ann Hefenieder, Linda Bogart, and Teresa Otley.



Judy Allen, Mary Benoit, Evie Ashmore, Marian Lee, Sheila Davis, Dawn Bali, Julie Bradley, and Mary Lou Edwards attended the conference from the Denver club.

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

October Meeting

Don't miss our October meeting on **October 12, 2017** at 5:00 p.m. at Fresh Fish Company. Our speaker will be Fatou Dombia of Agile International, a nonprofit that empowers women farmers in West Africa through sustainable agriculture education and training.

Please RSVP to Liz Savage at esavage2017@gmail.com by noon on Monday, October 9th.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here! As I sit in my office contemplating the arrival of fall, I look forward to the crisp weather, bracing mornings, and warm sunshine in the afternoons. Fall is our last chance to enjoy warmth before the cooler weather of winter.

We look forward to a great year. We've selected our film for the Day of Film, **Little Stones**! This film was previewed at the Inter-District Meeting in DC, where we met the director. It is a documentary about four women using art to create positive change in their communities. From a graffiti artist speaking out against domestic violence in Brazil to a dancer rehabilitating sex-trafficking survivors in India, each is contributing a stone to the mosaic of the women's movement. The director will attend the event to discuss the film and ways we can help others in the world. You will LOVE the connection to our Zonta International goals. The film is 'right up our alley' with its uplifting stories of women who improve others' lives!

Our Fundraising Committee is also working hard to ensure that our Zonta International Pouches (for business cards/Name badges, etc) are a big seller as well.

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
Pam Dumonceau

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

visit us online at www.zonta-denver.org

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING

See page 10.



Celebrating 21+ Years With Zonta

At the recent District 12 Conference, the Zontians in attendance who have been members for over 21 years were specially recognized.

We are targeting our membership to do an EASY fundraising project for all of us who shop online! The board has voted to register the Club on Amazon Smile and the "iGive" website, where you can painlessly contribute to our Club through just a few extra clicks when you shop online.

Thank you all for EVERYTHING you do. I will not be at the October meeting, as I will be out of town on business (and Marian will be in Italy!) but Mary Lou, our Vice President will capably preside in my place. October is the great reveal for our 2016-17 "Zontian of the Year" award, and you will want to be there to see who achieved that honor! ~Julie Bradley

NEW TREASURER ON DECK

Barb Pellegrin has agreed to step in and complete Gwen Fornia's term as treasurer when she leaves in February. The Club will vote on the selection at the October meeting.

Four members of the Denver club were among the honorees: **Mary Benoit, Evie Ashmore, Judy Allen, and Julie Bradley**. The most senior Zontian attending the conference was Beverly Augustine (seated) of the Prowers County club. Beverly is a Zonta veteran of 62 years.

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](#).

Committee Reports

MEMBERSHIP

I'm excited to report that seven guests attended the September club meeting, and several of them expressed strong interest in becoming Zonta members! The Membership Committee will reach out to these women, invite them to the October and November meetings, and encourage them to consider joining ZCD. It would be fabulous to bring on a few new members at mid-year to add to the six fantastic women who joined us in May!



The Committee met on September 27 to plan the New Member Orientation on Saturday, September 30 at Sheila Davis's home. A BIG **thank you** to Sheila for hosting, and for pulling together all the Zonta International and ZCD materials for our newest members. The orientation notebooks will impart a wealth of knowledge about ZI and ZCD, and serve as an invaluable resource to new members. Thanks also to Committee members Evie Ashmore, Kathy Hyzer, and Trish McNerny, as well as Nikki Headlee and Barb Pellegren, for their help in planning and presenting at the orientation!

At the September 12 club meeting, members voted to host a holiday party for one of this year's grant recipients and have a separate club holiday party on our normal monthly meeting date, Thursday, December 14. Treasurer Gwen Fornia again graciously volunteered to host the club party at her lovely home. THANK YOU, Gwen! The Committee will coordinate with the Service Committee over the next couple of months to select the organization for which to host the service holiday party, and to plan the club party as well. Stay tuned for more details in the November Smoke Signal.

Lastly, the Committee will hold its final two meetings of the calendar year on Wednesday October 25, and Wednesday November 29, both at **4:30 pm**, at Yanni's at The Landmark in Greenwood Village. Please join us if you'd like to help plan the two holiday parties and consider speakers for club meetings in 2018. All are welcome! ~ Liz Savage



FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee vetted choices for our Day of Film, set for March 31, 2018, and we've chosen a terrific film: *Little Stones*. We are working out the details with the producers as we speak, and will bring you more information when they are finalized.

We sold our jewelry and pouches at the District 12 last weekend (thanks to Judy Allen and Evie Ashmore for "manning" the booth), and will sell both again at the Area 3 meeting. We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding fundraising for our club.

The committee meets again on October 16 at 5:30 pm at Gwen Fornia's home. ~Mary Lou Edwards

SERVICE

The Service Committee met on September 20th to review fourteen grant applications. Yes, I said **fourteen**, an amazing number. We heard from long time recipients, new hopeful recipients, and some we hadn't heard from in many years.

Because several Service Committee members were unable to attend the meeting, I invited Julie Bradley, Marian Lee, and Penny Burke, members of our distinguished Board, to participate. They didn't make the decision making any easier, since it is always tough,



but their contributions were invaluable. Thank you Julie, Marian, and Penny.

The committee is now in the process of doing site visits to the qualified applicants. The committee will then forward the choices to the Trustees for their vote on the grant recipients. After the vote, the grant recipients for 2017–2018 will be announced to the Club. It is a very exciting time for all of us. Service is the heart of Zonta.

~Mary Benoit

ADVOCACY

Human Trafficking and Immigration – A Perspective to Consider

by Tricia McNerny

As a new Zontian, I thought it might behoove me to educate myself on one of our club's dedicated causes – human trafficking. I started this journey with E. Benjamin Skinner's *A Crime So Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern-Day Slavery*. If you have read it or are inclined to do so now, I think you will agree that it is a compelling work of journalism wrought with suspense and intrigue. It leaves you with tears in your eyes, a stone in your chest, and a call to action. A box of tissues will carry a reader through and its insights pay dividends in compassion, though the heaviness of heart may be lasting. [READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE STARTING AT PAGE 12.](#)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Zonta Day of Film

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, The FUN-raising committee has chosen a film for our March 31 event. That means PR will be gearing up to help promote it and help us all fill the house. We'll be asking members to let us know how they'd like to promote the Day of Film, so we know what materials to develop and share. Stay tuned to find out how you can become a Day of Film cheerleader!

~Wendy Moraskie



ZCD Directory and Beyond...

The new directories are out! To make sure they are correct, please check your listing, and your friends' listings as well. Send changes to Judy Mc, and be aware that she sends updates to District 12 so that corresponding corrections are made to the D12 directory also.

While you are perusing the directory, remember the "and Beyond" part, too, and look through the other pages to familiarize yourself with all the resources it holds. ~Judy McNerny



Keep Your "Zonta Glasses" on as You Read the News

Share articles that show how our mission matters

Here is a link to a recent article about Human Trafficking from *The New Yorker* magazine, "[The Desperate Journey of a Trafficked Girl](#)." As the article reflects, this serious problem is not going away any time soon, and people are working together all over the world to combat it.

Ending the Trafficking of helpless people is just one of Zonta's missions. Encourage your friends and colleagues to visit our website or one of our meetings to learn more. ~Linda Rhea

Club Calendar

Club Meetings

November 9, 2017

5:00 p.m., Fresh Fish Co., 8900 E.
Hampden Ave.

December 7, 2017 (Holiday Party)

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

January 11, 2018

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

February 8, 2018

5:00 p.m., location TBD

Board Meetings

October 26, 2017

5:00 p.m., Tony's Market, 950
Broadway

December 7, 2017

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

January 25, 2018

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

Special Events

The Santa Claus Shop

Where are you on the Santa Claus continuum? For a while we believe in Santa, for a while (hopefully very brief) 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 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, to start, is beginning to sign up volunteers and find a space. If you know of a vacant building with 15,000 square feet available for free (the value of the donation of the space is tax-deductible), please let Linda know. It needs to be on a bus line in the City and County of Denver, and must have at least 100 parking spaces.

Committee Meetings

Fundraising Committee

October 16, 2017

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

Membership Committee

October 25, 2017

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

Membership Committee

November 29, 2017

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

As a volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to sign up for morning or afternoon shifts on Dec. 8-12. More details will be revealed as they fall into place. Linda says, "Thank you for helping put smiles on the faces of children in Denver."

Area 3 Meeting

January 20, 2018

Boulder, Colorado

2018 Day of Film

March 31, 2018

Auraria Campus, Tivoli Center

News from Zonta International



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.

Upcoming Educational and Volunteer Events

10th Annual Human Trafficking SYMPOSIUM

Hosted by the Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado



October 28, 2017 // 8 am to 2 pm

Colorado College's
Kathryn Mohrman Theater
Armstrong Hall
14 E Cache La Poudre St.

Free to attend — For more
information and to register,
visit ht-colorado.org

*Human trafficking is real and happening
across Colorado. It is happening in our city,
in our neighborhoods, in our schools.*

*What would you do if you knew you could be
a disruption to this crime in our community?*

*Join us and **BE A DISRUPTION!***



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District 12 Conference Report

by Julie Bradley

Last weekend, I was privileged to be one of the eight members of our club who were able to attend the District 12 conference in Greeley, Colorado. There was a great group of ladies from all over the district and indeed, the world, attending a gathering of like-minded women dedicated to advancing the status of women worldwide.

Our International representative attending the conference was Ursula Werner, Zonta International Director 2016-2018, who came to us from the Zonta Club of Garmisch-Partenkirchen Germany in District 14. She was a delight to meet, and offered a wealth of information and knowledge about Zonta.

We also were privileged to have Jacquie Gudmendsen, from the Zonta Club of Pontiac-North Oakland (Michigan – District 15), who represented the ZI Leadership and Development Committee in giving a fantastic talk called “Effectively Using your Voice to Lead.” Everyone who attended the presentation was amazed by her ideas and ways to help us communicate effectively with others.

Presenting on how to work with Z and Golden Z clubs was Candace Edwards from the Zonta Club of Syracuse, District 2, who represented the Zonta International “Z and Golden Z Committee.” Candace was so inspiring with all the ideas she brought to the table. She had organized a group of young men and women to help her make blankets and books for donation to a shelter in Greeley.

Other speakers included Megan Lundstrom, Founder and Director of Free Our Girls, and Rachel Steinberg, Director of Global Cause Partnerships for UNICEF, USA. A highlight was when, on Sunday morning, we received a surprise Skype call from our International President, Sonja Honig-Schough! All in all, it was a fun and memorable conference.

ZONTA CLUB OF DENVER
September 14, 2017
Fresh Fish Company

Call to Order: Julie Bradley called meeting to order at 6:09 PM

Introduction of Guest(s):

- Beth Meyers from the Zonta Lakewood Golden Club
- BJ Iacino from the Gathering Place
- Jan Nash
- Marley Weaver Gabel – Scholarship Winner
- Samantha and her sister Serena
- Erica Pollen

Advocacy Moment:

Nancy McWhirter introduced Marley Weaver-Gabel, the Zonta Club of Denver JMK Scholarship winner, who is a junior at Regis. Marley provided remarks and thanked the Zonta Club of Denver. Marley Weaver-Gabel has also won the Zonta District JMK award.

Program: Gathering Place, BJ Iacino

BJ Iacino provided remarks about Zonta Club of Denver Grantee, The Gathering Place. BJ highlighted the numerous programs available at The Gathering Place that works towards finding stability for homeless women and their children.

Approval of Aug Minutes: Minutes stood approved as published

Treasurer:

Gwen Fornia reported that \$32,000.00 dollars is available for the grant recipients. The new bookkeeper is working out well and there are one file submissions that will be easier for future.

Committee Reports

Membership: Evie Ashmore reporting for Liz Savage

- The Zonta Club of Denver is having new member orientation on September 30 at Shelia's house – there will be a 9:30 am breakfast and the official orientation session will start at 10:00 AM. Committee Chair participation would be appreciated.
- Membership is beginning to plan for the December Holiday Party. A straw poll was conducted asking how many members would like a party for members and spouses, an event at a non-profit benefiting women (similar to the Haven party held in prior years), or both. The straw poll resulted in both being the optimal answer. Membership will take that information back for planning purposes.

Service: Mary Benoit

- A sign-up sheet for Hands of the Carpenter was full of signatures for volunteering for a morning coffee at one of the car clinics. Thank you to those who volunteered.

Fund Raising: Mary Lou Edwards

- Thank you to those who brought jewelry for the sale at District. Plan to make money.
- New: Zonta Club of Denver is selling pouches that can hold both the Zonta name tag and business cards. The pouches come in both black and rawhide and are being sold for \$15.00/piece. These will also be for sale at district.
- The Fundraising Committee is finalizing the film choice and will do so on Monday, September 18, 2017

PR: Wendy Moraskie



- Helen, Wendy and Cynthia – pulled an article about the Delores Project new building

Old Business:

- New treasurer - Barb Pellegren has agreed to take over as treasurer as Gwen Fornia will be leaving to join the Peace Corps.
- Preparations need to be made for Zonta Club of Denver members who have passed away for the Zonta District 12 Memorial.
- Julie Bradley inquired as to who would be attending the District 12 Meeting and asked that members let her know who would be participating.

New Business:

- Directories: Judy McNerny thanked Mathias Lock and Key for printing the directories and reminded members to pick up their copy. Also, they have figured out how to put the directory on the website in PDF – it make take additional time to put in place.
- The Zonta Club of Denver Board may be trying to use some technology to have remote meetings so everyone does not need to drive into downtown monthly.
- For the District Meeting, members are encouraged to provide DVDs for Teens and Adults and inspirational novels for A Woman's Place in Greeley. Raffle tickets will be provided to those who bring items to the meeting.

Birthday Recognitions:

- Olette Stansbury –has been a member for four years
- Sheilia Davis – has been a member for 15 years
- Mary Lou Edwards – has been a member for 14 years
- Liz Cameron –has been a member for 16 years

Beth Meyers won the drawing and \$31.00 was donated to the Zonta Club of Denver

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Burke

Human Trafficking and Immigration – A Perspective to Consider

By Tricia McNerny

As a new Zontian, I thought it might behoove me to educate myself on one of our club's dedicated causes – human trafficking. I started this journey with E. Benjamin Skinner's *A Crime So Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern-Day Slavery*. If you have read it or are inclined to do so now, I think you will agree that it is a compelling work of journalism wrought with suspense and intrigue. It leaves you with tears in your eyes, a stone in your chest, and a call to action. A box of tissues will carry a reader through and its insights pay dividends in compassion, though the heaviness of heart may be lasting.

Skinner travels around the world interviewing former and current slaves, their families, and the men and women who buy and sell human beings like livestock. He negotiates the purchase of a human being twice with shocking ease for those unfamiliar with this market. One gets a first-hand understanding of how individuals enter into bondage willingly or not, through desperation and deception, and stay there in fear and cold hard destitution. He ends the book with the story of a domestic child slave who was freed from a suburban Miami home in 1999. He meets with her as a young college student building a semi-normal existence for herself from the ashes of her former life, with all the shadows that accompany severe trauma and neglect.

This story gently forces the American reader to face the fact that slavery is a domestic issue. Gently, in that it is one of the nicer stories that can be told; it has an almost-happy ending and is an isolated rather than systemic case. The reality is that slavery is rampant but invisible. The word all but erased from the present tense of our modern vocabulary, mutated to imply something less horrific. Our modern consciousness is coaxed through the vernacular into the delusion that we have evolved beyond the age of brutal oppression for profit. Slavery exists in America in the sex trade, domestic labor, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors.¹

If we are to effect change, we must speak out for the voiceless individuals within our own borders. Free the Slaves offers an educational video on their website, which states that, "people migrating for work are especially vulnerable."² The stories told in *A Crime So Monstrous* present a first-hand account of why this is. One is of a woman wooed by an apparent suitor who brings her flowers and charms her parents at dinner in their home. He becomes her boyfriend and brings her to Amsterdam under false pretenses after she has completed school. Once they arrive, the boyfriend deletes all contacts from her phone and takes her passport. He hands her over to a different, more aggressive man who insists she owes thousands of dollars for the cost it took for the boyfriend to bring her there. He threatens to harm her family if she does not comply with his demands, and he knows very well where they are. Her debt keeps accruing, and she will never be able to repay it. Moreover, she is raped for the man's sole profit many times each day, along with other women in his keep.

If she tries to run, she may be imprisoned, or her family may be hurt or killed. It is easy to see that a person's social resources are severely restricted in a foreign location, language barriers may exist, and financial resources are non-existent or deliberately crippled. We can imagine it may be difficult to trust another person to help when you have no guarantee of rights, and if your

basic human rights are being routinely violated. Extreme poverty is commonly seen as the root cause of slavery. People who are led into these situations are typically uneducated and come from hopeless and deplorable conditions. Children are pushed out of their families because their parents believe anything will be better than the life they can offer. Some people enter into debt bondage knowingly when a crisis strikes their family and an oppressive person or organization preys on their desperation. Some people resign themselves in time to an oppressed position in life as it seems better than having no place in life at all.

The narrative of someone forced into prostitution is familiar. Skinner points out that sex trafficking has been singled out as a primary focus of US policy on human trafficking. Perhaps it is easier to acknowledge the existence of sex trafficking, as it is seen as the oldest industry and is something in which you must actively participate to see yourself as connected to. However, there are similar schemes that entrap people working in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and hospitality, all of which we are more intimately involved with through our consumption and leisure. Ronny Marty writes of his own experience of being trafficked in the US in a CNN Freedom Project report, "In 2009, I responded to an ad for a housekeeping job in a Kansas hotel while living in my native Dominican Republic. When I arrived, however, I was told by my trafficker that the only available job was in a Huntsville, Alabama DVD-manufacturing company. Once I was lured by the hotel job advertisement, I borrowed \$4,000 to pay my recruiter, purchase airfare and pay necessary visa fees. While working at the manufacturing company, I was charged high fees and deductions from my low salary, which kept me too poor to flee or return home. I had become a slave to my employers. During that time, I lived in a very small one-bedroom apartment with two other people. We each paid \$300 in rent per month to our employer, though the employer paid just \$450 in total to the landlord. After living with intimidation, withheld wages and threats of deportation and violence against my family, I escaped a few months later."³

In *A Crime So Monstrous*, Skinner investigates the contradictions in the multi-faceted approaches to abolition. Buying slaves to free them only legitimizes ownership of people. Criminalizing prostitutes only serves to disempower and isolate victims of trafficking; yet legalizing prostitution only invites a mask for true coercion. I think we should consider that a portion of the immigrant population in our country is being systematically exploited under threat of violence for little or no pay beyond subsistence. In other words, they are living as slaves among us. People who find themselves in this situation have often been lured under the promise of making a better life only to find themselves trapped by design under a debt they can never repay. The Alliance to End Slavery & Trafficking (ATEST) Letter on Sanctuary Cities outlines how fear of deportation entraps victims of this heinous crime. "Traffickers regularly threaten victims with arrest and deportation. If victims fear detention or removal, they are less likely to cooperate with law enforcement. As a result, traffickers will act with impunity."⁴ Treating undocumented immigrants as criminals who are coming here with mal-intent only helps prop up those who profit from exploiting them, and allows greater abuses of people who are further isolated and afraid to reach out for help. At the same time, it takes our focus off the people and organizations that enabled or encouraged their immigration and that benefit the most from their work as a major source of the problem – next to poverty.

My investigation into this topic has heightened my concern with how domestic immigration reform is approached. Popular rhetoric would have us see undocumented immigrants as willing and knowing violators who benefit from the jobs and social services available here without paying into the communal purse. The truth is much more complicated. Those that employ workers are equally if not more responsible, and their abuses go ignored as a systemic problem. It is a curious approach that we seem to be taking, similar to a scene described in *A Crime So Monstrous* of police going after prostitutes while ignoring the pimps leaning on walls nearby but somehow in the shadows. It gives me great hope that Denver recently passed the Denver Public Safety Enforcement Priorities Act, giving protection to our immigrant and refugee populations. I hope, my dear Zontians, that if this resonates with you, you may help raise this perspective into awareness as you talk to friends and neighbors about immigrants and immigration reform.

¹ Buckley, Chrissey. Forced Labor in the United States: A Contemporary Problem in Need of a Contemporary Solution. *Topical Research Digest: Human Rights and Contemporary Slavery* (2008). Retrieved from: <https://www.du.edu/korbel/hrhw/researchdigest/slavery/us.pdf>

² Free the Slaves Formula for Freedom. Video available here: <http://www.freetheslaves.net/thought-leadership/training-conferences/>

³ Marty, Ronny. (2017, February 7). Slavery Survivor: Escaping a Trafficker Shouldn't be Left to Chance. *CNN Freedom Project*. Retrieved from: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/06/opinions/ronny-marty-human-trafficking/>

⁴ <https://endslaveryandtrafficking.org/atest-letter-sanctuary-cities/>