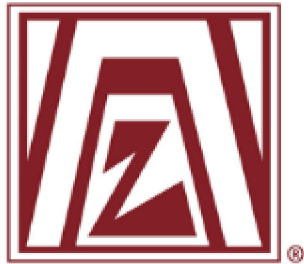


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ZONTA
CLUB OF
DENVER
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Smoke Signal - October 2018

2018-2019
Zonta Club of Denver

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Mary Lou Edwards, President-elect
Jeanette Scotland, Vice President
Gwen Fornia, Secretary
Evie Ashmore, Treasurer

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Evie Ashmore
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Foundation Trustees

Liz Cameron
Pam Dumonceau
Nikki Headlee
Judy McNerny



Autumn is a second spring,
when every leaf is a flower.

Albert Camus

October Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 11th
Event: General Meeting
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Fresh Fish Company
7800 E Hampden, Denver
Program: Elder Abuse
Jennifer Gosko
Arapahoe County DA's Office

visit us online at www.zonta-denver.org

September Minutes

Message from our President



Zonta and its Lessons in Leadership

One of the many benefits of Zonta membership is the opportunity to build our leadership skills, which can benefit us as we engage in our workplaces, in other organizations, and even in our families.

My favorite definition of leadership was articulated by Kevin Kruse in a 2013 *Forbes* article. He describes leadership as:

“A process of social influence which maximizes the efforts of others toward the achievement of a goal.”

As this definition reflects, leadership stems from **social** influence – not authority, seniority, or power. It isn't tied to a title or position. We can lead from wherever we are in an organization.

Leadership also arises from our impact on **others** – not from self-aggrandizement, or touting superior knowledge or capabilities. True leaders empower and inspire others. They do not stifle or try to outshine them, nor do they insist that others do things their way.

Moreover, leadership revolves around a **goal** – not just the exercise of influence with no intended outcome. Leadership moves the organization forward toward a tangible result.

Our Zontian of the Year, to be announced at our October meeting, epitomizes leadership under this definition. She leads even when she holds no title; she has an empowering influence on the people around her; and she moves those around her toward achieving some of our club's most important goals. I look forward to our meeting, where we will honor this inspiring member of our club.

~ Marian Lee

Bad Feminist

Roxane Gay is a writer, professor, editor, and commentator. She is the author of *The New York Times* best-selling essay collection *Bad Feminist* (2014), as well as the short story collection *Ayiti* (2011), the novel *An Untamed State* (2014), the short story collection *Difficult Women* (2017), and the memoir *Hunger* (2017). Read the introduction to *Bad Feminist* [here](#) and, if you are intrigued, as I was, buy the book or read it on [Scrib'd](#).



~ Dawn Bali

FUNdraiser



The Fundraising Committee plans two more symphony nights next spring. March 1, Beethoven's Symphony #7 and May 24, Carmina Burana. Please choose which one, or both, you would like to attend, make out a check for \$35 per event payable to Wendy Moraskie. Then, bring that check to our next meeting on October 11 and give it to Cynthia Herndon. Presto! You will get tickets at a later date and earn money for the Club. Thank you for supporting these events!

Fake News, and Facts, About Sexual Assault

We value our freedom of speech. We also have to be very aware of coming to conclusions and making decisions based on accurate information. Snopes (the fact checking operation that debunks the junk we see on email and social media) just posted an alert about an absolutely false declaration that is leaving a slime trail around the internet. The malicious statement claiming that 99% of rape allegations are “Absolutely Fabricated” is completely made up. Someone seeking attention just put those words together in a grammatically correct, but viciously false sentence. [Read more.](#)

~ Wendy Moraskie

Thanks from Zonta International Foundation



Dear Julie and Marian,

On behalf of the Zonta International Foundation, thank you for the Zonta Club of Denver's dedication and generosity to the Zonta International Foundation during the 2016-2018 Biennium.

None of our good work is possible without the generosity of Zonta clubs. We appreciate all of your efforts. Together, we empower women and girls, through our education programs, our international service and ZISVAW projects, and through our belief and investment in them. Your donations help women and girls transform into stronger, more confident, and responsive world citizens. On behalf of all of the women and girls touched by ZIF, we thank you.

As a token of our gratitude, a special image has been created to use on your website and fundraising materials to showcase your commitment to the Zonta International Foundation. We ask that you use the attached image only in this context. When posting the image, it is best not to stretch, skew or change the image in anyway, but it can be resized to fit your needs.

If you have any questions regarding the use or posting of your image, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Again, thank you for your club's impressive efforts during the 2016-2018 Biennium.

Kind regards,

Eva Mikos

Development Database and Donor Services Manager
Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation
1211 West 22nd St. Suite 900 | Oak Brook, IL 60523 | USA
Phone: +1 630 928 1556 | Skype: emikos11

1919-2019 *We Empower Women* www.zonta.org

A Word from the Treasurer

I invite you to look at the Monthly Financials that are posted on our members only section of the website. The first three columns reporting Operating, Service and Discretionary funds can be looked at as our expendable funds. The other two columns reporting Hershey and Foundation must be used for specific, defined purposes.

~ Evie Ashmore



Committee Reports

MEMBERSHIP

The membership committee is excited to offer a happy hour at Lala's Wine Bar, 410 E 7th Ave, before they close for good! They offer \$5 glasses of wine and appetizers \$3.50-\$6!!! Let's gather there on October 25, 4:30-6pm! RSVP to me at 303-424-2811 so we have an idea of how many to expect.

Another news flash, our holiday party will be hosted by Dottie Jenkins at her new home! More later.

~ Veronica Hoegler





ADVOCACY

The majority of the committee to include, Dawn Bali, Mary Lou Edwards, Lori DiSaia, and Mary Benoit gathered Friday afternoon, September 28th. A few key things were decided: our next meeting will be November 10th, a survey for gauging member's interests in women's issues will be forthcoming in October, and each of us will be seeking to work with our sister committees to marry efforts and lend support. Thank you to those that could attend! I look forward to meeting again in November. The agenda for the meeting also has a wealth of information.

We discussed:

- What Dawn hopes for the committee over the next 3 years and what the focus will be each year
- 2018-2019 Engagement Generating enthusiasm and energy for advocacy
- 2019-2020 Partnering Getting involved outside of our club, building relationships
- 2020-2021 Empowering Rolling up our sleeves and providing service and support to women
- At length the other organizations and relevant points of contact with whom we should get in touch with for becoming familiar with the advocacy terrain. Of note, the Women's Collaborative, Women's Lobby of Colorado, 9to5.org, and others we should reach out to.
- Zonta's Centennial Anniversary Celebration, though specific guidance from District 12 and ZI has been sparse. The new website Zonta100.org has launched.
- ZI's Service projects and how we could localize the issues to the Denver area.
- How to generate enthusiasm, energy, and participation for Advocacy. Partnering with the other committees is the first step towards this.
- And brainstormed issues to include in the forthcoming survey.

Advocacy Committee meetings will occur roughly every 6 weeks or as needed. Future meetings will be in November, early January, late February, and Early April. Specific dates, times, and locations depend on availability.

~ Carol Mangold & Dawn Bali

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No meeting minutes to report. There are still positions available on the committee, so volunteers are welcome.

~ Wendy Moraskie



FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee has chosen two more Colorado Symphony concerts for you to select to attend in the Spring. Please see the details above in this issue.

Day of Film: SAVE THE DATE: Saturday March 30, 2019
We have chosen a film to preview, [Be Relentless](#). It features a woman who is a survivor of human sexual trafficking and her amazing journey: she swims, runs and bicycles through Mexico and the USA for over 3,762 miles to bring greater attention to the world-wide problem. We will be previewing it on October first. While the trailer looks very promising no decision has been made nor board approval sought. That will happen in the coming month. Stay tuned.

Zonta Pouches: If you haven't yet purchased your second Zonta Pouch (\$15) for membership cards, gift cards, even ear buds, you can still get one. They will be available at the meeting on October 11. Also, we are selling them at the Governor's Seminar in Lamar October 5-6.

~ Jeanette Scotland



BY-LAWS

Please see the proposed bylaws amendment, below and previously emailed to you on September 9, that we will (really!) vote on at the October meeting.

~ Judy McNerny

Proposed Zonta Club of Denver Bylaws Amendment

The Bylaws Committee proposes the following change to the club bylaws:

Article VIII, Section 2:

SECTION 2. Qualifications. To be eligible for the office of President; or President-Elect ~~or Vice President~~, a member must have been at some time a member of the Club Board for at least one year.

The rationale for this change is the difficulty of filling Board positions and the fact that a candidate for Vice President is no longer making a commitment to move up to President-Elect and then President, as was once the case.

The Board recommends that the members approve this change. The change will be put to a vote of the members at the October 11 club meeting.

Club Calendar

Club Meetings

October 11, 2018

5:00 p.m.

Fresh Fish Company
7800 E Hampden Blvd

November 8, 2018

5:00 p.m.

Fresh Fish Company
7800 E Hampden Blvd

Save the Date

December 14, 15, 17, 18, 2018

Santa Claus Shop

Special Events

District 12 Governor's Seminar

October 5-6, 2018

Lamar, Colorado

Committee Meetings

Fundraising Committee

October 1st, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Jeanette Scotland's house
3350 S Clermont St

Service Committee

October 1st 5:30 p.m.

Citron Bistro 3635 S Yosemite

Membership Committee

October 24th at 4 p.m.

Panera's at Riverpoint @ Hampden
and Sheridan

Advocacy Committee

November 10

Time and place TBD



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Zonta Club of Denver
General Meeting MINUTES
September 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER 5:30

President Marian called the meeting to order at 5:30

Introduction of guests

Linda Rhea – Melissa Butler, internal auditor for Oppenheimer Funds

Sheila - Wendy Peterson

Victoria - Sue Ellen Kruger

Guest speakers Holly Brouwer and Vicki Williams

ADVOCACY MOMENT

Dawn – Sending around a list for members to submit Smoke Signal article or advocacy moment. She will follow up with Sign Up Genius.

Shared article regarding feminism predating colonialism in Benin. Annie Lennox has set up her social media site for sharing why she is a global feminist. Dawn's reason – Women being killed for being women, for which she shared examples and urges us to think about a reason for ourselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August Meeting minutes were approved as published in the Smoke Signal.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Evie – Budget approved in August – can be found on Website. Financials for June and July also there

NEW BUSINESS

JMK scholarship winner Holly Brouwer introduced by Nancy. Holly is a DU masters student from rural Colorado BS/BA in finance – she has been an ethics coordinator. Interned and works for COBank helping farmers to stay in business. Internal audit and enterprise risk management. Masters in applied quantitative finance (data science) Holly shared what being a woman in finance today is like. Women tend to see it as a career to engage people and have an impact on lives more than her male counterparts. There is a discrepancy favoring males in leadership roles.

Vicki Williams, Friends of the Haven, introduced by Kathy Hyzer. New Ex Director of Haven for 2 months. She is affiliated with Communities First Foundation. Shared experience in Finance before getting doctorate. Moved onto non-profit community. Shared stories of their two award winners and how they succeeded due to the Haven. They are preparing proposal for Zonta grant for their exercise program at the YMCA. It helps them physically and mentally and as a way to spend their spare time. Other activities have included theater, camping and other outdoor activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating committee – Judy announced Gwen as new secretary. Motion by nominating committee. Barb seconded motion. Motion passed.

Bylaws committee report – Judy - eliminate existing bylaw that Vice President had to serve for one year before running for VP. Will receive notice before next months meeting and voted into bylaws then.

Membership – Veronica. She has 9 ZI Plaques available for those who may want to display at work. Will do Happy Hour as extra activity for club – will be at Lalas late October before they close.

Fundraising – Jeanette – We have pouches for sale \$15 each. FR movie ‘Be Relentless.’ regarding human trafficking. Price is \$50 early tickets. Held at Tivoli on March 30th.

OTHER BUSINESS

Linda Rhea – Sent around sign up for Santa Clause Shop.

Members encouraged to attend Governors Seminar in Lamar October 5-6. Kathy and Jeanette offered to be alternative delegates

BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION

Olette – Sep 3rd and 5 year member; Sheila -Sep 13th and 16 years ; Mary Lou Sep 20th and 15 years

50/50 DRAWING –

Winner Judy McNerny

ADJOURNMENT at 7pm

This is the introduction to Roxane Gay's book "Bad Feminist: Essays," published in 2014. You can purchase the book on Amazon.

Feminism (n.): Plural

The world changes faster than we can fathom in ways that are complicated. These bewildering changes often leave us raw. The cultural climate is shifting, particularly for women as we contend with the retrenchment of reproductive freedom, the persistence of rape culture, and the flawed if not damaging representations of women we're consuming in music, movies, and literature.

We have a comedian asking his fans to touch women lightly on their stomachs because ignoring personal boundaries is oh so funny. We have all manner of music glorifying the degradation of women, and damnit, that music is catchy so I often find myself singing along as my very being is diminished. Singers like Robin Thicke know "we want it." Rappers like Jay-Z use the word "bitch" like punctuation. Movies, more often than not, tell stories of men as if men's stories are the only stories that matter. When women are involved, they are sidekicks, the romantic interests, the afterthoughts. Rarely do women get to be the center of attention. Rarely do our stories get to matter.

How do we bring attention to these issues? How do we do so in ways that will actually be heard? How do we find the necessary language for talking about the inequalities and injustices women face, both great and small? As I've gotten older, feminism has answered these questions, at least in part.

Feminism is flawed, but it offers, at its best, a way to navigate this shifting cultural climate. Feminism has certainly helped me find my voice. Feminism has helped me believe my voice matters, even in this world where there are so many voices demanding to be heard.

How do we reconcile the imperfections of feminism with all the good it can do? In truth, feminism is flawed because it is a movement powered by people and people are inherently flawed. For whatever reason, we hold feminism to an unreasonable standard where the movement must be everything we want and must always make the best choices. When feminism falls short of our expectations, we decide the problem is with feminism rather than with the flawed people who act in the name of the movement.

The problem with movements is that, all too often, they are associated with only the most visible figures, the people with the biggest platforms and the loudest, most provocative voices. But feminism is not whatever philosophy is being spouted by the popular media feminist flavor of the week, at least not entirely.

Feminism, as of late, has suffered from a certain guilt by association because we conflate feminism with women who advocate feminism as part of their personal brand. When these figureheads say what we want to hear, we put them up on the Feminist Pedestal, and when they do something we don't like, we knock them right off and then say there's something wrong with feminism because our feminist leaders have failed us. We forget the difference between feminism and Professional Feminists.

I openly embrace the label of bad feminist. I do so because I am flawed and human. I am not terribly well versed in feminist history. I am not as well read in key feminist texts as I would like to be. I have certain...interests and personality traits and opinions that may not fall in line with traditional feminism, but I am still a feminist. I cannot tell you how freeing it has been to accept this about myself.

I embrace the label of bad feminist because I am human. I am messy. I'm not trying to be an example. I am not trying to be perfect. I am not trying to say I have all the answers. I am not trying to say I'm right. I am just trying — trying to support what I believe in, trying to do some good in this world, trying to make some noise with my writing while also being myself: a

woman who loves pink and likes to get freaky and sometimes dances her ass off to music she knows, she *knows*, is terrible for women and who sometimes plays dumb with repairmen because it's just easier to let them feel macho than it is to stand on the moral high ground.

I am a bad feminist because I never want to be placed on a Feminist Pedestal. People who are placed on pedestals are expected to pose, perfectly. Then they get knocked off when they fuck it up. I regularly fuck it up. Consider me already knocked off.

When I was younger, I disavowed feminism with alarming frequency. I understand why women still fall over themselves to disavow feminism, to distance themselves. I disavowed feminism because when I was called a feminist, the label felt like an insult. In fact, it was generally intended as such. When I was called a feminist, during those days, my first thought was, *But I willingly give blow jobs*. I had it in my head that I could not both be a feminist and be sexually open. I had lots of strange things in my head during my teens and twenties.

I disavowed feminism because I had no rational understanding of the movement. I was called a feminist, and what I heard was, "You are an angry, sex-hating, man-hating victim lady person." This caricature is how feminists have been warped by the people who fear feminism most, the same people who have the most to lose when feminism succeeds. Anytime I remember how I once disavowed feminism, I am ashamed of my ignorance. I am ashamed of my fear because mostly my disavowal was grounded in the fear that I would be ostracized, that I would be seen as a troublemaker, that I would never be accepted into the mainstream.

I get angry when women disavow feminism and shun the feminist label but say they support all the advances born of feminism because I see a disconnect that does not need to be there. I get angry but I understand and hope someday we will live in a culture where we don't need to distance ourselves from the feminist label, where the label doesn't make us afraid of being alone, of being too different, of wanting too much.

I try to keep my feminism simple. I know feminism is complex and evolving and flawed. I know feminism will not and cannot fix everything. I believe in equal opportunities for women and men. I believe in women having reproductive freedom and affordable and unfettered access to the health care they need. I believe women should be paid as much as men for doing the same work. Feminism is a choice, and if a woman does not want to be a feminist, that is her right, but it is still my responsibility to fight for her rights. I believe feminism is grounded in supporting the choices of women even if we wouldn't make certain choices for ourselves. I believe women not just in the United States but in throughout the world deserve equality and freedom but know I am in no position to tell women of other cultures what that equality and freedom should look like.

I resisted feminism in my teens and my twenties because I worried that feminism wouldn't allow me to be the mess of a woman I knew myself to be. But then I began to learn more about feminism. I learned to separate feminism from Feminism or Feminists or the idea of an Essential Feminism—one true feminism to dominate all of womankind. It was easy to embrace feminism when I realized it was advocating for gender equality in all realms, while also making the effort to be intersectional, to consider all the other factors that influence who we are and how we move through the world. Feminism has given me peace. Feminism has given me guiding principles for how I write, how I read, how I live. I do stray from these principles, but I also know it's okay when I do not live up to my best feminist self.

Women of color, queer women, and transgender women need to be better included in the feminist project. Women from these groups have been shamefully abandoned by Capital-F Feminism, time and again. This is a hard, painful truth. This is where a lot of people run into resisting feminism, trying to create distance between the movement and where they stand. Believe me, I understand. For years, I decided feminism wasn't for me as a black woman, as a woman who has been queer identified at varying points in her life, because feminism has,

historically, been far more invested in improving the lives of heterosexual white women to the detriment of all others.

But two wrongs do not make a right. Feminism's failings do not mean we should eschew feminism entirely. People do terrible things all the time, but we don't regularly disown our humanity. We disavow the terrible things. We should disavow the failures of feminism without disavowing its many successes and how far we have come.

We don't all have to believe in the same feminism. Feminism can be pluralistic so long as we respect the different feminisms we carry with us, so long as we give enough of a damn to try to minimize the fractures among us.

Feminism will better succeed with collective effort, but feminist success can also rise out of personal conduct. I hear many young women say they can't find well-known feminists with whom they can identify. That can be disheartening, but I say, let us (try to) become the feminists we would like to see moving through the world.

When you can't find someone to follow, you have to find a way to lead by example. In this collection of essays, I'm trying to lead, in a small, imperfect way. I am raising my voice as a bad feminist. I am taking a stand as a bad feminist. I offer insights on our culture and how we consume it. The essays in this collection also examine race in contemporary film, the limits of "diversity," and how innovation is rarely satisfying; it is rarely enough. I call for creating new, more inclusive measures for literary excellence and take a closer look at HBO's *Girls* and the phenomenon of the Fifty Shades trilogy. These essays are political and they are personal. They are, like feminism, flawed, but they come from a genuine place. I am just one woman trying to make sense of this world we live in. I'm raising my voice to show all the ways we have room to want more, to do better.

FAKE NEWS, AND FACTS, ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

We value our freedom of speech. We also have to be very aware of coming to conclusions and making decisions based on accurate information. Snopes (the fact checking operation that debunks the junk we see on email and social media) just posted an alert about an absolutely false declaration that is leaving a slime trail around the internet. The malicious statement claiming that 99% of rape allegations are “Absolutely Fabricated” is completely made up. Someone seeking attention just put those words together in a grammatically correct, but viciously false sentence.

If we did nothing else as Zontians but stand together to support each other and speak the truth about the mistreatment of women and our work to change that, that would be a large, daunting task.

Consider these figures:

- Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted.
- And every 8 minutes, that victim is a child. Meanwhile, only 6 out of every 1,000 perpetrators will end up in prison.
- 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.
- Child Protective Services agencies estimate that 63,000 children a year are victims of sexual abuse.
- Of victims under the age of 18: 34% of victims of sexual assault and rape are under age 12, and 66% of victims of sexual assault and rape are age 12-17.

For more statistics and information, see these two sites and news article.

<https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center is based in Pennsylvania and supported by the Centers for Disease Control. NSVRC proclaims that sexual violence is rooted in power inequities and is connected to other forms of oppression including ableism, adultism, ageism, classism, heterosexism, racism, sexism, the basis of religion, and other constructs that value certain people or groups over others. They work to promote a greater understanding of sexual violence and how to prevent it.

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/scope-problem>

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE), online.rainn.org y rainn.org/es in partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers across the country and operates the DoD Safe Helpline for the Department of Defense. RAINN has helped more that 2.7 million people since 1994 through programs to prevent sexual violence, help survivors, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/women-report-sexual-assaults-survivor-speaks/story?id=57985818>

Good insight on how we treat victims of sexual violence. I heard a law enforcement official say once that when people call the police and say they've been mugged, beaten up, robbed or their car was stolen, the police immediately assume they are speaking the truth and act upon it. However, when people tell the police they were sexually assaulted, neither the police nor the public at large take that same position, but operate as though the victim may be mistaken or somehow to blame.

The women served by the organizations we support are included in these statistics. Thank you for your commitment to help them improve their futures since we can't change the past.

~ Wendy Moraskie