



Zonta Club of Pikes Peak Area

Member of Zonta International

President's Message

Spring is here, or perhaps should be here, we would probably say, after an Easter with snow. But certainly it is a time of new beginnings for many of us.

At our last meeting, we had the privilege of giving a check of \$7500 to TESSA, an organization that works with women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. Our members have worked so hard to make this possible, and I believe, this is just the beginning of many more satisfying times of being able to make a difference to those women who are being so abused or those who are in desperate need of help.

Betty's Bits

Following is an email from Jillann R. who many of you will remember from a wonderful Zonta meeting where she showed us daily dress from many countries and told us of women's hardships and triumphs in living their lives. She is happy for me to share this with you. Jillann is now in Paris to study cooking in preparation for a brand new career!

Dear Zonta Sisters,

In honor and celebration of International Women's Day, I share with you this article of inspiration, struggle, hope for the future.

To make this more "personal," while I was working in Iraq, many of the women that we were supporting through our program discussed how the verbal, mental, and physical abuse worsened after the invasion. Abuse exists in our country/cultures as well, but in cultures (I include Africa and Asia in this, as well) where honor and saving face is so important, and that "family/clan" is your identification, having to give that up is like a living death. We worked to resolve issues between spouses (read "families/clans"), but

With this happy experience behind us and the prospects of other fund raisers in the future, we can go on happily knowing that we did accomplish a goal that sometimes we didn't think we could reach.

So now let's continue to unite together as we have been to share the prospect of even a more productive occasion, March 1, 2008, when we have our next Glass Slipper Ball. Be sure to put that date on your calendar. Also, if you are planning to attend the Area 4 meeting in Lamar on April 21th, be sure to get your reservation in right away before it is too late.

– Rosalie D.

when a woman decided that she could no longer take it, we would provide the safe houses necessary to "die alive" (I don't remember this word in Arabic - selective memory). There was a ceremony and the women were transported through a series of safehouses from Baghdad (or wherever) to Khurdistan where they were given new names, new lives. Many ended up being sent through Turkey or Syria and become sex workers or housekeepers, some made new lives in Khurdistan. We've all seen/shared/lived extreme mental and physical anguish, but I honestly can say that personally, this was one of the most anguishing experiences that I have been involved in, and I pray and work towards making that experience a distant memory...as do we all, as Zontians.

"La lotta continua, continua..."
(lyrics by Mariam Makeba)

bisous,
Jillann

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Status of Women Information

http://www.zonta-district12.org/pp_status/statusofwomen.html



From Around the World
Courtesy of Lee O.
Status of Women Committee

Don't miss this in-depth resource regarding current information about women around the world!
From June 2005 through February 2007, this is an thorough list of happenings in

the lives of women around the world. Thousands of articles are linked and grouped geographically and chronologically. It is very interesting and educational reading.

Thank you, Lee!

Musings of a Past President

1994-1995

by Sharon Roggy

When asked to write this article I did my best to recollect my tenure as President of the club. To help jog my memory, I found the listing of Past Presidents in the District Directory and discovered that mine was a one-year Presidency (1994-1995). I remember that it was brief and fairly overwhelming. I "cheerfully" accepted the opportunity to lead the club at the same time that I became a VP with Penrose-St. Francis Healthcare System. To say the least it was a busy and stressful time in my life.

Because my professional life was spent in strategic planning and business development, I decided to try some planning with our club. I believe we held our first annual planning meeting at my home during the late summer of 1994 to plan for the club year ahead. It was an opportunity to weave together the mission and directives of our District with those of our local club. It was also an opportunity to focus and prioritize. We were a much smaller club then, and our efforts, although, well-meaning, seemed scattered at times. Planning helped us focus on what we could do to truly impact the status of women, and how we could use our time and talents judiciously so as not to burn ourselves out. In all honesty, I can't remember any great strides that were made during my Presidency, but we did get a bit more organized.

Then I was assigned another sister hospital system to oversee in Pueblo and my life was not my own. All my organization still didn't generate enough hours in the day to be able to fulfill my professional responsibilities and my volunteer duties. Luckily Joanne Metcalf stepped up to the challenge and succeeded me, doing an excellent job of bringing new energy and enthusiasm to the club. Any of our members who have served as President can attest to the awesome responsibilities associated with this role. It's a golden opportunity to bring one's unique talents to an organization and leave an indelible stamp for posterity. It's also a tremendous challenge. Most of us leave the job wishing we could have done more, done it better, done it longer. The fact is that each new President builds on the legacy of her forbears and brings something to the club that benefits us all. I'm proud to be among those who have held this position for the Pikes Peak Area Club.

*"Men, their rights,
and nothing more;
women, their rights,
and nothing less."*

– Susan B. Anthony



Quotation of the Month

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted".

–Aesop, The Lion and the Mouse





IRAQ: Kurdish women struggle to advance

SULEIMANIYAH, 9 March 2007 (IRIN) - Women in Iraq's Kurdistan are using the relative calm in their region to make slow progress towards equal status with men - but there is still a long way to go, according to activists.

Abuse by men pushed 538 women to commit suicide last year, according to Sara Qader, a journalist with the weekly Awina newspaper.

"Some of these women are still facing violence from their husbands or families and honour killings still exist in some rural areas of Kurdistan. These forced 538 women to commit suicide in 2006 alone," Qader said.

She added that non-governmental agencies advocating women's rights have had no impact.

"Some of these women's organisations are affiliated to political parties and that makes it more difficult for women to advance and have rights equal to those of men," Qader said.

Kurdish women have 29 seats in the Kurdistan parliament and three portfolios.



Zonta Founders.

Dates to Remember

- April 2, 2007 Board Meeting Caspian Café 5:30pm
- April 16, 2007 General Meeting Sliverwood Hotel 5:30pm
505 Popes Bluff Trail
- April 14, 2007 Area 1 Meeting Pierre-Fort Pierre
- April 21, 2007 Area 4 Meeting Lamar
- April 28, 2007 Area 2 Meeting Cheyenne
- Sept 29–30, 2007 District 12 Conference Spearfish, SD
- March 1, 2008 Glass Slipper Ball!
- June 28–July 3, 2008 59th Zonta International Convention
Rotterdam "Global empowerment through local action."

"But as a tribal society, social pressures are still being applied by men on the women which keep them from getting their rights," said Parwa Ali, a social researcher and activist.

However, there is hope - 24 years ago, poverty forced Afrah Abdullah to abandon her education to help her family. Now the 34-year-old mother-of-four is returning to school to continue her studies.

"My father died when I was 10 and as I was the eldest of my three sisters, I had to abandon school to help my mother to sew to earn our living," Abdullah said.

"It is really embarrassing when someone doesn't know how to read or write. I couldn't even follow up on my children's education," she added. Social restrictions, war and population displacement deprived Abdullah and many other Kurds in northern Iraq of an education as children.

Omed Kaka Rash, director of the Illiteracy Eradication Programme in the Kurdistan Regional Government, said 27 percent of people over the age of 10 are classed as illiterate in Kurdistan - 281,992 women and 446,668 men.

"A broader literacy campaign is under way in Kurdistan now and everyone who is illiterate will be able to read and write within the next three years," Rash said.

"Kurdistan's education ministry is providing textbooks, desks and other materials, and will recognise the school's leaving certificate, meaning graduates will be able to go on to higher education," she added.

The schools accept women regardless of age and put them on an accelerated learning programme where, for example, the standard primary school course of six years is cut to three.

Most of the adult education facilities are in the city of Suleimaniyah, about 350km north of Baghdad.

Now, tens of illiterate women are joining the Accelerated Learning School in Chamchamal, a poor town 60km south of Suleimaniyah.

"I feel as if I'm coming back to life again; being illiterate is something like being blind, dumb or paralysed," said Maryam Salih, a 34-year-old mother of three.

"We were a poor family and my father couldn't afford send me to school. I will continue studying until I finish school and get a job so I can earn my own income and help my husband," she added.



Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area

"ADVANCING
THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN
WORLDWIDE"



Zonta International
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Our Mission...

To advance the status of women and serve our community through local and international contributions, and to achieve personal and professional growth in a nurturing and supportive environment.

About Our Organization...

The Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area has been serving our community since 1949 by advancing the status of women. Our club has devoted funds to scholarships for women returning to the workforce as well as to high school seniors seeking to further their education in Public Affairs or Aeronautics and other highly technical fields. Many funds as well as hands-on service hours and mentorships have been dedicated to TESSA, Intercept, Full-Circle, and support of the locally-placed Liberian refugees.

We're on the Web!

www.zontadistrict12.org/pikespeak.html

Member Information

Nearly 33,000 members belong to more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 68 countries.

Fulfilling our mission locally and globally.

For membership information, please contact Betty E., 719-598-7992, betlow@aol.com

or

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