

Zonta Zephyr

November/December 2007 Volume 7, Issue 8





Member of Zonta International

Message from the President

We have been so blessed to have such beautiful fall weather this year. I have especially enjoyed each day for this is my favorite time of year. It also is our nut fundraising time to get together with our sister Zontians for an evening of fellowship and a time to bag the nuts. There are so many fond memories, that I recall, of our time bagging nuts. Just thinking about it makes me hungry for Pat's wonderful soup.

We have had some really exciting and informative speakers at our general meetings lately, and from what I hear, there will be more to come in the future. Our program committee is doing a great job! Thank you, ladies.

As we approach the holiday season with all of the busy times, don't forget to talk to your acquaintances and those you plan to contact for sponsors and remind them all that they need to save March 1st for the Glass Slipper Ball.

Also, it is not too soon to start getting those commitments for the silent auction and sponsorships.

Thanks to all of our committees who have been working so hard on each project. My special thanks to our 501(c)3 committee who has spent many, many hours toiling over the legalities of putting our tax-exempt status in place. Our club is so fortunate to have such knowledgeable and capable people.

I hope all of our members and guests will be able to join us at our General Meeting, November 19th at 5:00 p.m. and for our Holiday Party which will be held at Laura's, December 9th at 4:00 p.m.

See you all soon.

--Rosalie



What's New...

See the new club web site at ZontaPikesPeak.org



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What I did this summer....

By Helen S.

Remember those essays? Finally, I have something to write which might have satisfied those long ago teachers and might be of interest now to my fellow Zontians!

We have our son, Jim, whom some of you might remember from Polaris' presentation to our club a while back, to thank for our latest volunteer experience. His girlfriend, Gretchen, is working for Habitat for Humanity in Paraguay. One of her first projects was to organize a "global village" program, in which volunteers from all over the world come to help construct a home for a week or two. Her project was to be in Cochabamba, Bolivia. When Bob and I heard that Gretchen's parents were trying to form her first team, we asked if we could be a part of it. That was the start of an amazing adventure! We left here in June and joined the other six members of the group in Cochabamba.

Soon after we arrived we met the family whose house we were going to help build. Remberto, a taxi-driver, has two little boys, David and Elias and a brand new baby girl. At the time, his family was living in a mudbrick house next to the new building site. Habitat for Humanity functions much the same in Bolivia as it does in the States, requiring the future home-owner to have a steady income, so that he can repay the small mortgage he needs to buy the land. He also needs to put in hundreds of hours of "sweat-equity" on the construction of his house.

When we first arrived at the site, the foundations were already in place. We had been told that at the end of our week of labor, we were expected to have raised the walls to roof level – a daunting task! Fortunately we were joining an experienced Bolivian work crew: Remberto, two "maestros" and four young students

from a local architecture school. None of them spoke English and our Spanish was severely limited although Gretchen had provided us with a Spanish building-site vocabulary list: ladrillos (bricks), pared (wall) and - very important necesito decansar (I need to rest)! We were further aided by 2 young American volunteers who had shown up at the Habitat offices and who, thank goodness, could speak Spanish! However, we still mainly communicated by pointing and smiling a lot. I don't think the "maestros" really knew what to do with all these willing but not so able American volunteers – a motley crew of retired teachers, a Lutheran minister, a school nurse and some office-worker types - not a builder amongst us. We were assigned the simple jobs: moving piles of bricks and stones; clearing and keeping the work-site clean; pounding the ground until it was flat; filling in the holes between the bricks. After we had proved our worth, we were given our most complicated task, measuring and prepping planks used as forms for the cement-pouring! The hardest part of this task was trying to communicate the measurements to the maestros!

As the week progressed, our tired muscles strengthened and we were amazed to see our progress – and yes, we did reach the roof! It was an amazing week in which we made new friends - some of the kindest and most patient people we had ever met, learned some Spanish, got terrific sun-tans, exhausted our bodies, discovered we could do things we never imagined we could and, after it was over, realized that we had helped to build a home.

We recently received this photo of the finished house. Wow!



Our Habitat for Humanity crew and Remberto's





"Men, their rights,

and nothing more;

women, their rights,

- Susan B. Anthony

and nothing less."



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Quotation and Link of the Month

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal."

- Henry Ford

Thanksgiving: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving



Zonta and the United Nations

by Betty E.

Last Saturday the Pikes Peak Chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America held a celebration of the United Nations Anniversary. The UN officially came into existence on October 24, 1945, and United Nations Day has been celebrated on October 24, since 1948.

We saw several videos of the impact of AIDS in Thailand, Russia and Bolivia, along with the approach of the health providers in those countries. This ranged from very little in Thailand to 25% of the health budget in Bolivia. (1) The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Public Health arm, reports in December 2006, a 54% increase over the 1.3 million people on treatment in December 2005. At the same time, they report just 28% of the estimated 7.1 million people in need of treatment in all low- and middle-income countries were receiving it in December 2006. (2)

These numbers are important when considering the efforts to scale up services to meet a global goal of moving towards "universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support" for HIV by 2010.

Zonta has expressed support for the UN since 1946. Zonta brings women's concerns to the UN, suggests solutions, and draws public attention to issues. Zonta maintains representatives of its United Nations Committee at UN sites in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna. These committee members attend UN conferences, and UN agency, committee and commission sessions. Since 1985, we have had consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of six principal bodies carrying out UN work.

What does this mean to a club member? It shows how Zonta enters the world through our participation by written statements and oral presentations on issues being considered by this world body. It reinforces our commitment to our International Projects wherein we help to reduce human suffering. It makes us mindful of one of our Objects: To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy.

- (1) For more international information, see www.serro.who.int/
- (2) For more UN/ZONTA information, see www.zonta.org (About Zonta, Zonta and the United Nations.)

Dates to Remember



November 5, 2007 Nut Bagging at Pat K's home

November 12, 2007 5:30 PM Board Meeting

Caspian Café

November 19, 2007 5:00 PM General Meeting

Fire Rock Grill

575 Garden of the Gods Road Fellowship (optional): 5:00 PM

Dinner: 5:30 PM

December 3, 2007 5:30 PM Board Meeting-Caspian Café

December 9, 2007 4:00 PM Holiday Party-Laura S's home



March 1. 2008

See the photographs from 2007 on our web site! ZontaPikesPeak.org

Amelia Earhart Fellowships...

Since 1938 Zonta has awarded 1,192 Amelia Earhart Fellowships totaling US\$7 million to women pursuing PhD degrees in aerospace science and engineering – women following Amelia's dream for gender equality. Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area

"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 he 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 handson 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!

ZontaPikesPeak.org

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,

bredwards12@aol.com

or

Larua S., 719-264-9087,

Stampfamily4cs@msn.com