

ZONTA CLUB OF COLUMBIA, S C

ZONTA NEWS & VIEWS

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH/APRIL 2008

ZONTA



INTERNATIONAL

Club #513

Chartered:
September 10, 1963

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Runette Louthian

SERVICE
Vacant

President's Letter

It's hard to believe that we are in the last quarter of this Zonta year. Time has gone by so quickly, but it has been time well spent and effort most fruitful. We have accomplished so much this year in terms of service to other women, some far away on other continents and others in our own community. As the pioneer anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "I must admit that I personally measure success in terms of the contributions an individual makes to her or his fellow human beings." So, my Zonta sisters, consider yourselves very successful!

The issues that we address both globally and locally as Zontians are entrenched ones of gender and class that threaten the established status quo of power and tradition. This is true in our own country, as well as in Ghana or India or Bosnia. We have to run headlong into social, political, economic, and cultural barriers many times over in order to make a little progress, force some small movement that may eventually gain traction and bring about bigger changes. It is hard work that requires patience and focus, persistence, even stubbornness, and above all, vision of what can be. As Clara Barton, the legendary Civil War

nurse and founder of the American Red Cross said a century ago, "I have an almost complete disregard of precedent and a faith in the possibility of something better. It irritates me to be told how things always have been done I defy the tyranny of precedent. I cannot afford the luxury of a closed mind. I go for anything new that might improve the past."

So, forward into the fray we continue to go in 2008, not solitary laborers, but united with 33,000 other strong, committed, and stubborn women around the world. I encourage you to visit the Zonta International website often, educate yourselves about the many projects we are involved with around the world, see the faces and read the stories of women whose lives have been changed by our work and our will to improve the status of our gender. Share the passion of our mission with others and invite them to join us. To end as I began, I leave you with Margaret Mead's most famous quotation, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Yours in Zonta,
Melodie

District 11 Officers

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
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TREASURER
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SECRETARY
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AREA 2 DIRECTOR
Jean McElroy, Hilton Head

FOUNDATION
AMBASSADOR
Sarah Lee

Visit www.zonta.org or
www.zonta-district11.org
for more information

International President

Olivia Ferry, Philippines

International President Elect

Beryl Sten, Sweden

AREA WORKSHOP – ONE OF THE BEST EVER

Six Zontians from the Columbia Club attended the Area Workshop in Savannah and had a wonderful time. The March 1st workshop was lead by Jean McElroy, the Area 2 Director and our special guests and speakers were Bea Weaver, District Governor and Coretta Bedsole, District Secretary. The Agenda for the meeting addressed Spotighting on our Focus, Shining as a Leader and Time for Your Close-up. We had a breakout sessions to share our service projects and to make sure that they passed the Zonta Service Project Test. We discussed Strategic Planning; Where are we now? Where do we want to be in three years? and How are we going to get there? We reviewed what Zonta's Mission is compared to other civic clubs. We talked about how to increase membership by making recruitment an ongoing process and to make sure we are orientating our new members. Every member is a potential leader – develop it.

New Yearbooks Available

Dottie Munsch has completed our new yearbooks. They feature color photos of all members. Dottie will have yearbooks available again at the April luncheon for those who still need one.

Mark Your Calendars

Zonta International Convention
Rotterdam, Netherlands
June 28 - July 3, 2008

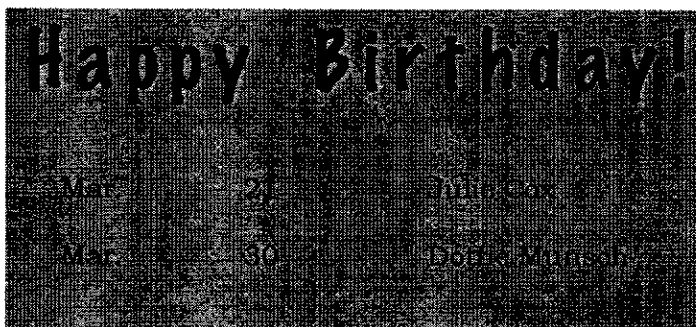
Visit www.zonta2008.com for more information.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

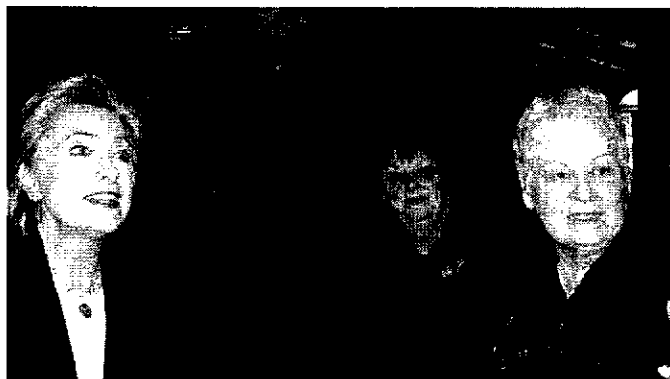
-Margaret Mead

THEN: Ain't we got fun! Friday night we had hors'deuvres at a jewelry store and learned about diamonds and gemstones. How to determine quality and get the right price. Know what you are buying. Very informative. Saturday night after the workshop, those who were staying over went out to eat. 10 of us went to Lady & Son's (Paula Dean's Place) and 11 went to Cashbah where there was belly dancing. You don't know what you missed. Make sure to put next year on your calendar. This is the beginning of getting to know other Zontians from other clubs, getting ideas and understanding what wonderful and intelligent accomplished women are members of this great organization.

Dottie Munsch



A SURPRISE MEETING



Zontian MJ Hassell and friends were enjoying breakfast at Shoneys when they were pleasantly interrupted by a surprise visit from Hillary Clinton and her entourage.

Member Spotlight on Runette Louthian

I am currently serving as Public Relations Chair for the Zonta Club of Columbia. Along with chairing that committee, I am editor of your club newsletter.

I was born in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, grew up in North Charleston and graduated from Chicora High School. I attended the University of South Carolina and married Herbert Louthian who at that time was in the Air Force. Herb also grew up in North Charleston. We lived in Denver for 18 months, moved back to Charleston, then Columbia for Herb to finish his education and go to Law School. I worked for the Army as a stenographer and administrative assistant.

We have three children. Herbert, Jr. (Bert), Holly Moore and Kay. Bert and Holly live in Columbia, Bert practices law with Herb and Holly is working on a master's degree in Education at Columbia College. Kay lives in Wilmington where she is a Physician Assistant.

We have been members of Shandon Presbyterian Church since 1958.

We have three grandchildren ages 6, 8, and 14. They live about one mile from us so we enjoy seeing them often (but not enough).

Since 1983 I have worked as an Independent Travel Agent at Forest Lake Travel. My favorite thing to do is customized trips, but I also enjoy planning cruises, packages, and most anything else. If you would like to take a trip, I can arrange it! I am one of a few Certified Travel Consultants in Columbia.

In my spare time, I like to play tennis and bridge, read, needle point, walk our Lab and go to the gym. Since Herb is a movie junkie, we don't miss many of them.

FAST FACT: 70 percent of the 1.3 billion poor are women.

DISTRICT & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

March 8th - International Women's Day

International Women's Day has been observed since in the early 1900's, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies.

Since its birth in the socialist movement, (1918-1999) International Women's Day has grown to become a global day of recognition and celebration across developed and developing Countries alike. For decades, IWD has grown from strength to strength annually. For many years, the United Nations has held an annual IWD conference to coordinate International efforts for women's rights and participation in social, political and economic processes. 1975 was designated as 'International Women's Year' by the United Nations. Women's organizations and governments around the world have also observed IWD annually on 8 March by holding large-scale events that honor women's advancement and while diligently reminding of the continued vigilance and action required to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained in all aspects of life.

IWD is now an official holiday in Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The tradition sees men honoring their mothers, wives, girlfriends, colleagues, etc with flowers and small gifts. In some countries, IWD has the equivalent status of Mother's Day where children give small presents to their mothers and

ZONTA ISSUE: If poverty, HIV/AIDs, illiteracy, violence and trafficking had a face it would be female. The world's plagues are rooted in gender inequality, and the only common solution is the empowerment of women.