



# Zonta Zephyr



A publication of the Zonta Club of Cheyenne

December 6, 2011

*"Improving the status of women through service and advocacy"*



## *President's Message*

*Ann Lucas, President*

It's that time of year when we hear bells ringing as we enter retail establishments. Christmas carols playing on the radio. I love Christmastime most especially because of the music. A favorite carol of mine is "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." It originated as a poem, "The Christmas Bells" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and was set to music a few years after he wrote the poem. It was not a particularly joyful poem. Longfellow's wife died in 1861, months after the Civil War began. She died in a tragic accident. His son was seriously injured in the Civil War, and died when the end of the war was in sight, in 1864. Christmastime was a bleak time of year for Longfellow after his wife and son died. "The Christmas Bells" was written on December 25, 1864.

The Civil War took a huge toll on Longfellow's family. Nevertheless, Longfellow, a longtime abolitionist, supported the war and believed that the Union was far better off together instead of split apart. He believed that all people yearned to and deserved to be free.

A couple of verses, four through six, were not included in the song because they were pretty dark and referred to the war. I like them in the poem, because it's hopeful. That hope that we will have peace on earth and good will to all people is what keeps us going as a human race. I believe this hope is what makes us strive to help others.

As you go forth this holiday season, challenge yourself to discover ways improve others' lots in life. Ask yourself how you can make a life better,

whether it's in your family, your church, your workplace, in a parking lot, or somewhere on this planet. Certainly this is the time of year when we donate money, as we are able, to those less fortunate. Lives can be impacted by your gift of time, also. Sometimes it doesn't even take that much to make someone's day better. A smile for a stranger, a sincere compliment, friendly advice to a struggling colleague, an offer of assistance to someone who could use a hand. Find the good in others and you find it in yourself, too. 'Tis the season.

*Have a joyful holiday. My wish for you is quality time spent with loved ones and good friends, and peace on earth, good will to men and women.*

**P.S.** I came across an executive summary for a study entitled "Bribery or Just Desserts? Evidence on the Influence of Congressional Reproductive Policy Voting Patterns on PAC Contributions from Exogenous Variation in the Sex Mix of Legislator Offspring." Long title. Basically the study evaluated the propensity of legislators to vote based on values previously embedded rather than external factors. Duh. What was interesting were the gender influencing factors. The specific example was that legislators with more daughters were more likely to vote in favor of women's issues. Maybe we should be voting for candidates with daughters? Hmmm.



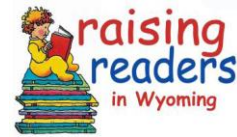
# Important Reminders!



- The **general meeting** of the Zonta Club of Cheyenne will be **Thursday, December 8 at noon at Avanti Restaurant**. Carla Thurin, the Executive Director of SafeHouse, will be our speaker. The lunch cost will be \$13, and exact change is appreciated. ***Please remember to bring items to donate for SafeHouse.***
- **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence** - The dates for 2011 are **November 25 through December 10**, so there is still time to observe the remainder of this event (be sure to view the Silent Witness display at the Library) and International Human Rights Day (Dec 10). For more information, please go to the website at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu>. The 2011 theme is "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!" The 16 Days campaign is a global initiative that seeks to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels regarding violence against women. Cheyenne Zonta Club **Members are asked to meet at the Laramie County Library at noon on December 9 (Friday) to help take down the Silent Witness display**. These full size silhouettes are in honor of victims of gender violence in Wyoming, and each person's story is told on their figure. There is much to be done right here in Wyoming to prevent gender violence and assist the victims throughout the year.



*Cheyenne Zonta members met with Governor Matt Mead as he signed the proclamation for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. Pictured (left to right) are Jody Gostas, Mary Walker, Edith Garrett, Michelle Ammerman, Governor Mead, Ann Lucas, Kathy Cathcart and Heather Goodwine.*



- Raising Readers Bookplating – The day for December's bookplating is different from past months, so please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. at the WY State Library**. Please park in the back and come to the doors from the back parking lot. Someone from the State Library will let you in. Contact Candi Cathcart at [candiangel20@yahoo.com](mailto:candiangel20@yahoo.com) for more information, or to let her know you'll be there.



## ZIF Dine In Event = Fun!

*By Bev Morrow*

Eight dedicated Zontians braved the snow and cold to attend the first ever Dine In Event to benefit the Zonta International Foundation (ZIF). This Zonta Club of Cheyenne potluck dinner was held on Thursday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m. at the lovely home of Linda Bogart and her daughter, Missie. Each member brought a dish to contribute to the potluck dinner, and we enjoyed some great food. We watched a short film about the Rwanda HIV/AIDS Project, which is supported by Zonta International and the UN. There were some great group discussions, and we finally had to force ourselves to leave. Before the evening was over, participants donated over \$200 to ZIF to support International service projects. Individual giving is so important to the life-altering projects that Zonta helps to make possible. Donation forms will be available at the Zonta meeting on Thursday, so those who would still like to donate to the cause have another opportunity. 'Tis the season for charitable giving!





# MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Ann Lucas	12/3
Linda Bogart	12/12
Connie Sloan Cathcart	12/30

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to these Zontians, and to anyone who may have been missed!**



## **DECEMBER** is *(among other things):*

- ★ International Human Rights Month
- ★ Hi Neighbor Month
- ★ National Stress Free Family Holiday Month
- ★ Read a New Book Month
- ★ Safe Toy & Gift Month
- ★ Write a Friend Month



## Quote for the Month

*The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.*  
~ Alice Walker ~



## Zonta FYI

### Did You Know?

- ❖ To mark its 64th year of service to the UN community, UNFCU (United Nations Federal Credit Union) is recognizing the work of eight organizations whose work and exemplary service are answering UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Zonta International Foundation (ZIF) was highlighted by UNFCU for its work to further gender equality. Members of UNFCU were asked to vote for the organization who is contributing most to important development benchmarks, with the organization with the most votes receiving US\$5,000 from UNFCU. Although Zonta International Foundation was not selected by the voters, the Foundation did receive a US\$1,000 donation in recognition of its work.
- ❖ The Argentinian president, Cristina Kirchner, has been re-elected with one of the widest victory margins in the country's history. Kirchner had nearly 54% of the votes cast in Sunday's election after almost 97% of polling stations had reported. Her nearest challenger got just under 17%.
- ❖ Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and Africa's only female president, was re-elected by an overwhelming margin in November.
- ❖ *From Wyoming Women's Foundation* - Recent statistics on domestic violence and sexual assault in the state of Wyoming present an unnerving picture. Nearly 3500 incidents of domestic violence were tallied last year, and that's just what was reported. Add to that the news from University of Wyoming on the number of sexual assaults on campus - 9 reported in 2010, up from one the previous year.



# Advocacy Corner

It's all about the Zonta mission!

## *Give the Gift of a Violence-Free Holiday*

*From AAUW*

### **Tell the Senate: It's Time to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act!**

Since the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was first passed in 1994, it has played an enormous role in strengthening anti-violence efforts and helping to protect women nationwide. States' laws are stronger; reporting of domestic violence has increased; and legal options for victims are improved -- all while saving states and federal government *billions* of dollars.

Now, VAWA is due for reauthorization\*. **Tell your senators to cosponsor the bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act!**

This reauthorization bill is also an opportunity to strengthen, enhance, and streamline the existing programs and provisions in VAWA. That's why we're excited that the bipartisan version of VAWA that will be introduced in the Senate in the days to come includes new improvements, including some aimed at ending sexual violence on campus. These changes incorporate many of the provisions of the Campus SaVE Act (S. 834) which AAUW has worked so hard to advance.

Too many women and girls rely on the enforcement, legal, and support programs in VAWA for reauthorization to become mired in partisan politics. It's time to send a message to the Senate and tell them: "Women deserve a violence-free holiday: It's time to pass the Violence Against Women Act!"

To send a message asking your senators to cosponsor the bill to reauthorize VAWA, visit **AAUW Two-Minute Activist** on their website ([www.aauw.org/act](http://www.aauw.org/act)).

*\*Reauthorization is the process by which Congress prescribes changes to existing laws and extends the authorization for a law to receive appropriations (funding).*

## **Say NO – UNITE to End Violence against Women**

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Trust Fund to End violence against Women. Since it was established, the Fund has given more than US \$78 million in grants to support 339 projects in 127 countries and territories—all dedicated to stopping violence against women and girls.

In Guatemala, young Mayan women get training and support to shape a safer future, and in Cameroon, UN Trust Fund grantees are bringing hope and medical care to refugees.

In Russia, with the help of the UN Trust Fund, psychosocial support services are helping HIV-positive women rebuild their lives. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Roma women are raising awareness about violence against women in its various forms, and helping survivors seek protection.

In Cambodia, survivors of acid attacks are reclaiming their lives, and young volunteers are working in rural communities to transform attitudes so that domestic violence is no longer tolerated.

At its 15th anniversary, the UN Trust Fund has only one wish—that you join us in celebrating the efforts and accomplishments of people and organizations in addressing the pandemic of violence against women. Share their stories. Post the UN Trust Fund stories on your social media accounts. Tell people to watch the videos on YouTube.

And donate to the UN Trust Fund during the holidays this year—it relies on voluntary contributions to meet rising demands for its grants. Your gift can make women and girls safer, and help them reclaim their lives and dignity.



## IN OTHER NEWS...

**NOTE:** Both of the following articles were published in the *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* on December 2, 2011. December is *International Human Rights Month*, and these articles illustrate why the 16 Days of Activism and Human Rights initiatives are so critical.

### Afghan Woman Pardoned After Agreeing to Marry Her Rapist

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan – Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Thursday pardoned an Afghan woman serving a 12-year prison sentence for having sex out of wedlock after she was raped by a relative.

Karzai's office said in a statement that the woman and her attacker have agreed to marry. That would reverse an earlier decision by the 19-year-old woman, who had previously refused a judge's offer of freedom if she agreed to marry the rapist.

Her plight was highlighted in a documentary that the European Union blocked because it feared the women featured in the film would be in danger if it were shown.

More than 5,000 people recently signed a petition urging Karzai to release the woman. She had the man's child while she was in prison and raised her daughter behind bars, which is common among women imprisoned in Afghanistan.

A statement released by Karzai's office says that after hearing from judicial officials, the decision was made to forgive the rest of the sentence she received for having sex out of wedlock, a crime in Afghanistan.

The presidential statement did not say when the woman was to be released or how much prison time had been pardoned.

The woman told the Associated Press in an interview last month that she had hoped that attention generated by the EU film might help her get released. With the film blocked, she said that she was losing hope and considering marrying her rapist as a way out. She said her attacker was pressuring her to stop giving interviews.

About half of the 300 to 400 women jailed in Afghanistan are imprisoned for so-called "moral crimes" such as sex outside marriage, or running

away from their husbands, according to reports by the United Nations and research organizations.



### Differing Laws on Trafficking Impede U.S. Crackdown

A new report says 41 states have failed to adopt strong penalties against human trafficking, and advocates say a patchwork of differing state laws makes it difficult for authorities to target the crime

In Connecticut, for instance, the strict penalties for sex traffickers are among the toughest in the nation. Neighboring Massachusetts, meanwhile, had no statute specifically targeting sex trafficking until one was signed into law days ago.

The report released Thursday by the advocacy group Shared Hope International said more than a dozen states have passed new crackdowns, but four states – Maine, Virginia, West Virginia and **Wyoming** – have yet to impose any specific restrictions on the crime.

"Each state's laws show omissions in protective provisions for child victims and (they) lack strong laws to prosecute the men who rent the bodies of other men's children," said Linda Smith, the group's founder and president.

As many as 15,000 victims of human trafficking are brought into the U.S. each year, according to advocacy groups. They say there could be more than 100,000 victims in the country now.



### Meeting Minutes and Reports

Zonta Club of Cheyenne

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

November 17, 6:00 p.m., 2011  
Suite 1901

*No minutes were made available by the time of publication.*



**Zonta Club of Cheyenne**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**December 6, 2011**

*Due to the Board Meeting being so close to the General Meeting, no minutes were available at the time of publication.*

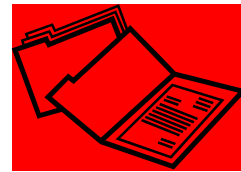


**ZONTA CLUB OF CHEYENNE**

**Treasurer's Report**

**As of December 1, 2011**

Balance November 1, 2011		\$20,321.75
Deposits: November meeting	550.00	
Make-up lunch – Lucas	14.00	
District 12, Area 2 mtg. reimb.	61.00	
Silent Auction	1,003.00	
		1,628.00
Checks Issued:		
#4094 Suite 1901 – Nov. meeting	573.72	
		573.72
Balance as of December 1, 2011		\$21,376.03
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>		
Service Funds Budgeted (Int'l Convention)	450.00	
Z-Club FY 11&12	400.00	
Literacy FY 12	135.00	
Silent Auction FY 11 & 12	2,827.00	
Meal Fund (FY11 \$790.00, FY12 -\$199.86)	590.14	
YWPA Award	1,000.00	
Zonta International (1/3 of service funds)	2,936.00	
Reserve Fund	3,000.00	
Total		\$11,338.14
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED Dec. 1, 2011</b>		<b>\$10,037.89</b>



**ZONTA COMMITTEE REPORTS**



**ZONTA Ladies Night Out (3/8/12) Committee**

**Kathy Cathcart, Chair**

Corporate sponsor's letters have been mailed. And additional sponsors are being solicited; please provide information to Karen of potentials you know of!

The PR & Marketing plan is being completed – there should be advertising in the WTE in December (due to a promo they are offering)! And Ann & I will be on TV sometime in December to talk about the event! A distribution date will be set in January to put posters up around town. Bev and Jody have a plan developed for the Zonta information booth, and they will be soliciting club members to assist with covering the booth. They'll be putting together a gift basket to give away during the evening.

Twenty-two vendors are secured with two tentative. There are invites out to at least 50 more – the goal is 35 vendors (no more than 50 total). Confirmed are:

- ALeigh Designs
- Blessings (tentative)
- Curves
- Goodwine Photography
- Heritage Makers
- Lia Sophia
- Tupperware
- Scentcy
- Pampered Chef
- Tealightful Treasures
- Earthly Creations
- Pizzazz Floral Creations
- Indian Paintbrush Studios
- MICHE Bags
- We-R-Business Brokers (tentative)
- Vault Denim
- Mary K
- Tastefully Simple
- Simple Creative Baskets

- Jewelry/Amanda Milton
- Madeline's Scents
- Fabric, Frosting & Frills

The next ZLNO committee meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to attend!



### Important Dates to Remember

- 11/25-12/10 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence; display at Laramie Co. Library
- December 6 Zonta Board Meeting, 5:25 p.m.
- December 8 Zonta General Meeting**, noon, Avanti's; bring items for Safehouse!
- December 10 International Human Rights Day
- December 21 International Day of Peace
- December 25 Merry Christmas/Happy Hanukah...** However you celebrate the Holidays!
- 2012**
- January 1 Happy New Year!**
- January 3 Zonta Board Meeting, 5:25 p.m.
- January 11 Amelia Earhart Day
- January 12 Zonta General Meeting, evening, TBA
- March 8 Zonta Ladies' Night Out at Little America, and Zonta Rose Day!
- April 14 Zonta Area 2 Meeting, Fort Collins
- July 7-12, Zonta International Convention, Torino, Italy

## 2011-2012 Zonta Board

Ann Lucas	President
Kristin Doty	Vice-President
Edith Garrett	Secretary
Sandy Hudson	Treasurer
Nancy Coyle	Director (2010-2012)
Mary Walker	Director (2011-2012)
Karen Hays	Director (2011-2013)
Linda Bogart	Director (2011-2013)
Michelle Ammerman	Past President



Zonta Club  
of Cheyenne

*Member of Zonta International*

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