

Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) [www.zontadistrict10.org](http://www.zontadistrict10.org) [www.zontafortsmith.wordpress.com](http://www.zontafortsmith.wordpress.com)

### September Meeting Features Several Guests



Tracy Pennartz, State Representative for District 65, which is the northern portion of Fort Smith, brought a lot of cheer and good information to our club as guest speaker at the September 21 meeting.

When Tracy first stood up to address our group, she looked around and immediately saw some people about whom she was compelled to comment.

"I only hope to have as much of an impact as you two have had on people's lives," she said to JoAnn Gedosh and Candy Foster. She complimented them on the work they have done in their careers with the Western Arkansas Counseling & Guidance Center and Fort Smith Public Schools, respectively.

This public servant says she has received "ample guidance" from the Bible verse Luke 12:48: "*Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.*"

Tracy shared information on issues coming up in the 87<sup>th</sup> Arkansas

General Assembly, which begins January 12, 2009. The Arkansas House of Representatives, along with the Arkansas Senate, compose the legislative branch of our state government. Combined, the two organizations form the Arkansas General Assembly, which convenes in regular session on the second Monday in January of every odd-numbered year.

Tracy spoke about healthcare, including the dire shortage of doctors and nurses, and noted that she is a breast cancer survivor. She talked about education, the possible passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in Arkansas, a state lottery, and foster care.

"Devotion to duty is important," Tracy said. "We're here for more than ourselves. That's the wonderful thing about Zonta," referring to our local and worldwide service projects and advocacy.

You can learn more about Tracy by reading her bio at [www.tracypennartz.com/bio](http://www.tracypennartz.com/bio). We thank Tracy for her enlightening visit with us.

Also at our meeting:

We received registration forms for Paint the Park Pink, which takes place October 11. Many Zontians are volunteering in addition to walking at the event.

Our club presented our \$1,000 scholarship check to Christy Williams, executive director of the Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Christy will inform us of opportunities to help interview SPSF candidates, which is an activity that counts for service hours.

Deborah Avillion brought materials for a "2-Minute International Focus" on the International Day of Peace that were

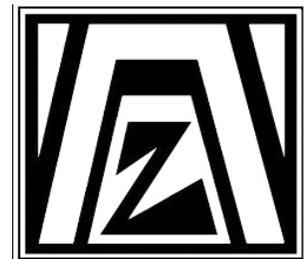
prepared by Jo Carson, co-chair. Deborah explained how members could text-message world leaders a message of peace in preparation for the day that is recognized on September 21.

Arenda Yancey, Yearbook and Member Directory Chair, delivered members the new yearbook material for 08-09 covering committees, dates, and Area, District and International information, as well as directory brochures with members' contact information.

Members brought donations of school supplies for the Orphan Outreach service project being conducted by the District 10 Conference, which will be held November 6-9 in Seguin, Texas. Items included lots of cute backpacks as well as pens, markers and more.

We welcomed four guests: M.G. Bell, guest of Cathy Williams; Joanna Bartz and Ashlea Cunningham, guests of Kim Vann; and Rhonda Hendrix, guest of Sherry Traylor.

New member Kaye Ichniowski won the 50-50.



*Zonta Club of Fort Smith received its charter April 24, 1967. Our club is part of Area 1, of District 10, of Zonta International. **President:** Julie Moncrief, 479-414-8927 **Editor:** Becky Fitzpatrick, 479. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Fort Smith Public Library.*

## Member Spotlight By Sheryl Flanagin



**Dolores Chitwood**

Born in Tulare, California, Dolores Chitwood came to our area in 1955 when her father, who had moved to California during the Depression, moved the family back to Benton County, Arkansas, his home.

Dolores' parents are deceased, but she has a sister who lives in Van Buren. Dolores also has two sons, one who lives in St. Louis and one who lives in Hot Springs. She has one grandson.

Dolores' career has been varied and impressive. She taught school in Van Buren, Alma, and Little Rock and worked for the Arkansas Welfare Department and the Tulsa County Health Department. In 1966-69, Dolores worked as the first female Sanitarian in Oklahoma and the third one nationwide. She started breaking those barriers early! Dolores also owned a dry cleaning and home decorating business with her husband.

For twenty years, Dolores has been an insurance agent. She has owned her agency for the past eighteen years. As an agent, Dolores has been and continues to be very active as a leader. She has belonged to the Insurance Agents Association for nineteen years, serving on the local and state boards and as local Dolores is currently serving as National Committee Person.

president. Dolores is currently serving as National Committee Person.

In addition to her work as an insurance agent, Dolores stays involved in the community. She has served on committees in both the Fort Smith and the Van Buren Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Fort Smith Property Owners Board and was the chair for three terms. In the early 1990's Dolores co-founded with Judge Foltz the Lincoln Day Care Center. Currently, Dolores serves on the Fort Smith Art Center Board and has leadership roles in other groups.

Even though Dolores is busy with her career and community projects, she does make time for other activities. She enjoys organizational work but also loves fishing and travel. Dolores jokes, "I have traveled to several countries but not as many as Pat, Delores, and JoAnn." Her friend Delores McMillan invited her to join Zonta in February 2000. Since then she has served as treasurer and as a committee chairman. Of course, for several years she has been the one to hand out those 50-50 prize winnings!



**Kathy Coleman with tablescape**

Often we Zonta members are known as the "geranium ladies." Those geraniums and a former president, Susan Martin, are what brought Kathy Coleman to Zonta in September 1993.

Born in Sallisaw, Kathy has a large family. The oldest of six sisters and two brothers, Kathy, in addition, has her husband Bill, of course, one step-son who is deceased, one step daughter, one son, and lots of nieces and nephews, whom she adores. Also, in that adoring category are Kathy's two grandsons—Hayden, age eleven and Hunter, age six.

Kathy and her sister Debra own Barton and Associates Insurance. Beginning in insurance directly out of high school, Kathy says, "I was hooked." Her eyes light up still whenever she talks about her work.

Kathy loves her work, but she also enjoys a variety of activities. Currently, she is the Vice-President of the Advisory board of Leadership Fort Smith and serves on the Community Services Clearing House Board. Kathy also enjoys scrap booking, decorating, working in her yard, and playing cards with friends.

Most of us have benefited from these "hobbies" of Kathy. I know enjoying her beautiful home and yard have been highlights for many Zonta socials. Plus, have you seen the press books she has prepared for Zonta over the past few years? They are as Pat said, "Works of art!" Kathy has said about her scrap booking that she enjoys seeing the response of those for whom she has made the books. We Zontians owe her a huge thank you for the beautiful history of our club that she has compiled for us!

An active Zontian in so many ways, Kathy has served our club as a director, secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and president. As chairman of the antique sale, Kathy led the club in raising over \$5000. Of course, as geranium chairman for several years, Kathy continually increased our profits. Kathy was the Zontian who developed our pre-sales. You know how much that has helped!

Often, we fellow Zontians have ridden in Kathy's "Zonta mobile" to area and district meetings, where Kathy is known and respected. In the last biennium, Kathy served as District 10 Young Women in Public Affairs Chairman. This biennium, Kathy is chairman of the District 10 Nominating Committee.

Recently, Kathy has faced a difficult medical issue with great strength and courage. She credits some of her Zonta friends for helping her through this time. She says, "When your life gets difficult and scary, your Zonta friends are there to bring you chicken soup, goodie baskets, and prayer shawls, to attend doctor's visits with you, to help you through radiation treatment (making sure everyone in the office knows you are a special friend) and to spend hours with your family in the

waiting room to hear the news of your surgery.”

Kathy says she can't imagine life without Zonta and all her Zonta friends. As Kathy states, “Your Zonta buddies are there to encourage you to accept challenges when asked to serve, even when you are not sure you are qualified. They bring out the best in you!”

### At the Tablesapes!!



**Joann at the tablesapes**



**Beautiful!!!!**



**Gorgeous!!!!**

### Zontians Enjoy Phillis Wheatley Event

Zonta Club of Fort Smith participated in an annual event held by one of our area's oldest women's clubs September 13. The Phillis Wheatly Club of Fort Smith, founded in 1898, presented its Ninth Annual “Tablesapes, Salad Luncheon, Fashions & More” at the St. Boniface Fellowship Center. Zontian **Kathy Coleman** entered the tablesapes competition with a “Zonta Club of Fort Smith” Christmas table. After the votes were tallied among at least a dozen decorated tables, Kathy's table emerged as a winner with third place.

Her table featured an old-fashioned Christmas, complete with a tree centerpiece, Christmas caroler dolls, and beautiful Christmas china.

Another Zontian, **JoAnn Gedosh**, modeled in the event's fashion show and looked like “a million dollars” in outfit after outfit. JoAnn is an enthusiastic supporter of the Crisis Center for Women's second-hand Thrift Store, and she surprised everyone by revealing the source of her outfits and that they all cost less than \$10.

In addition to Kathy and JoAnn, eight other Zontians enjoyed meeting members of the Phillis Wheatley Club and other ladies from the community. Attending were **Cathy Williams, Marilyn Barr, Sheryl Flanagin, Kim Vann, Arenda Yancey, Lucy Gist, Kaye Ichniowski** and **Julie Moncrief**.

Phyllis Wheatley was the first African American poet to be published in the U.S. She was born in 1753 and was sold as an 8-year-old slave to a family in Boston who educated her.



**Tracy and Kim with the Flag that Kim won!!! This flag flew over the capitol in LR.**



In keeping with Zonta's legacy of service, District 10 will once again ask for support at the November 2008 conference in Sequin. This year, Orphan Outreach has been selected as the District 10 Hands-On Project.

Items needed are: backpacks, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, pencil keepers, colored pencils, and pencil sharpeners. There will be a donation box at the sign-in table at the October Zonta club meeting for members to donate these items. At the September meeting we filled 2 huge boxes with donations!!!



*Zonta Club of Fort Smith Paints the Park PINK*



Our Survivor Kathy



Future Zontain in Training



Thank you Deidra for your hard work!



The early morning crew of volunteers



Zonta was well-represented!!



The Registration Desk Crew



Good Friends!!



Kathleen with her team



Joanna Bartz helps at Becky's booth

## Status of Women Update



Kim Vann, Sheryl Flanagin, Yolanda Goins, and Sandi Reiss all attended a training workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Girl Scout council to learn about the new programs that are available for Girl Scouts ages 11 and older. The new programs called “Journeys” use the concept Discover+Connect+Take Action= Leadership. This program is geared toward shaping the girls into future leaders of the community.

The Sequoyah County Girl Scout leaders are celebrating Make a Difference Day by conducting a Teen Safety Seminar for girls ages 11-17. The event will be held on Sat. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am-3pm in Roland. Activities will include a healthy relationships workshop provided by a staff member from the Crisis Center for Women, a self-defense lesson from Mr. Elton Hawkins, and a kid’s craft service project for the Crisis Center for Women. Zonta members Kim Vann, Yolanda Goins, Sheryl Flanagin, Karen Ford, and Sandi Reiss are planning this event. Please see any of these Zontians if you would like to sign up a teen girl for this event.

## Girls Shelter

Karen Ford, Yolanda Goins, Sandi Reiss, Kim Vann, and Sheryl Flanagin visited with 5 girls on Monday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Zonta night at the shelter. The group discussed the Girl Scout program and gave a brief history of Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts. Karen Ford gave the girls each a Girls Are Great book for Cadette Girl Scouts and discussions were held about how women are portrayed on TV and in movies and about gender equality in the school classrooms. The girls were very open about problems they see at school about how girls and boys are treated differently. Karen spoke to the group about advocacy and about the importance of registering to vote and serving on a jury. All discussions led to the end of the night with a Girl Scout all time favorite snack, s’mores!

The Girls Shelter is also hosting a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Applebee’s on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 8am -10am. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased in advance from Kim Vann, Sheryl Flanagin, or any other Girl’s Shelter board member.



In October there are two sessions scheduled on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm at Girls Inc for the “Girls Inking Their Thinking” Zonta writing project. See Janie Weber for details.



Genie Nichols, Kathy Coleman, and Marilyn Barr visited the Crisis Center for Women safe house on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Four women and a 16 year old teen enjoyed Mary Kay facials with Genie while Marilyn and Kathy entertained a 6 year old and 2 year old boy. They played with the boys in the backyard with the balls, dinosaurs, and trucks provided for them by Kathy. Marilyn also brought some books for the children. Kathy reports that she didn’t know who had more fun with the boys, her or Marilyn, but that they both needed to laugh and they had the most fun playing with them. She also reported that the women were very appreciative of the pizza and the visit.

## Breast Cancer Awareness



Sheryl Flanagin and Deidra Gomez passed out pink m&m's and Zonta information to breast cancer survivors at Fort Smith Radiation Oncology's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Breast Cancer Awareness party on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House. The party is held every year to celebrate with the survivors while enjoying good food, door prizes, massages, manicures, and goody bags. Zonta member and breast cancer survivor Kathy Coleman also attended the party.

## Paint the Park Pink

Sixteen Zontians participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Paint the Park Pink family walk at Creekmore Park on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Several Zontians were there before sunlight to sign up as volunteers and start checking in walkers. Thank you to Deidra Gomez for doing such an awesome job chairing this service project. Check out the Paint the Park Pink photo page in this newsletter for more information.

## \$ Local Scholarship News \$

Cindy Kennemer once again received the Zonta Club UA Fort Smith Scholarship of \$1000 recently at the UAFS Awards Banquet. The recipient of the Annette Putnam Zonta Club of Fort Smith Scholarship was awarded to Kayleigh Hook. Kayleigh is a Van Buren High School graduate who is majoring in marketing. Zonta President Julie Moncrief attended the banquet.



**The 2007-2008 Zonta Press Book is Here!!**

Kathy Coleman presented past President Sheryl Flanagin with her 2007-2008 Zonta Press Book at the September meeting. The huge book will be at the next couple of meetings and dinners for all members to enjoy. Thank you to Kathy for once again creating a fabulous scrapbook reflecting on all the great times of 2007-2008!



**Pat Crump looking over the memories of last year**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at La Huerta



Becky, Cathy and Deborah at LaHuerta

The October 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday lunch was enjoyed by Kim Vann, Becky Fitzpatrick, Julie Moncrief, Arenda Yancey, Deborah Avillion, Cathy Williams, and Deidra Gomez. The group all feasted on delicious Mexican dishes at LaHuerta Mexican restaurant on Garrison Avenue. Table topics included the upcoming 16 Days of Activism campaign, the sinking economy, and funny stories of children and grandchildren. (Just ask Arenda how she and her husband got tricked into seeing the new movie *House Bunny*!!)

## Zonta Member News



Deidra Gomez has been named the September Youth of the Month by Hispanos Unidos (United Hispanics) newspaper. This newspaper is the Spanish newspaper that is owned by the Southwest Times Record.



President Julie Moncrief is featured in the October 2008 issue of Entertainment Fort Smith magazine as their e list quick profile of entertaining, engaging, and exceptional people.



Brittany Reiss, daughter of Zonta member Sandi Reiss, recently received 5<sup>th</sup> place at the Channel 5 News Youth Talent Competition held at the Arkansas Oklahoma State Fair. Brittany sang *Black Horse and the Cherry Tree*, competed against 75 other contestants, and collected a \$50 prize.



### Jo Carson receives Firekeeper Award

Jo Carson was recently awarded the Firekeeper Award at the Woman to Woman banquet held on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn City Center. The banquet is presented by Sparks Regional Medical Center and The Women's Center. Mary Lee Frase of the Cancer Support House nominated Jo for this prestigious award.

*"She has been a trailblazer for women who find themselves alone, abandoned, abused, under educated and raising children in an environment where no advocates exist. She has used her God given gifts, her education and a network of friends and colleagues to build stennina stones to assist*

*thousands of women in our community and in our state walk out of poverty empowered to take their place in their community as mothers, employees, and leaders. She has never taken credit for the difference she has made in so many lives. She thinks it is a responsibility of being a member of the human race, a community and a family to be a good steward of society."*

Quote by Mary Lee Frase.

## Calendar of Events

- October 20<sup>th</sup>:** Meeting, Community Room, Fort Smith Public Library, Speaker: Tracy Long, Vice-President, Investor Relations, Baldor Electric Co., Speaker. *"The Professional Status of Women"*
- October 21<sup>st</sup>:** Crisis Center Night- Genie, Kim, Kathleen, and Becky 5:30pm
- October 28<sup>th</sup>:** Girls Inking Their Thinking- Girls Inc 4:30pm
- October 30<sup>th</sup>:** Quarterly Dinner: Jennifer Schmidt's house. Hostesses: Jennifer, Sheryl, Kim, and Sherry, Costumes optional!
- November 1<sup>st</sup>:** Girl's Shelter Applebee's pancake breakfast fundraiser. 8am-10am. \$5 in advance- see Kim or Sheryl for tickets.
- November 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>:** 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence window display at Fort Smith Public Library.
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Daylight Savings End-Fall Back!
- November 4<sup>th</sup>:** Election Day ~ Don't forget to vote!!
- November 5<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Lunch at Goodson's Cornerstone.
- November 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:** 61<sup>st</sup> Zonta District 10 Conference- Sequin, TX
- November 8<sup>th</sup>:** Happy Birthday Zonta!!
- November 10<sup>th</sup>:** Board Meeting
- November 11<sup>th</sup>:** Girls Inking Their Thinking- Girls Inc. 4:30pm

## TIDBITS

Congratulations to Julie Moncrief for being featured in E-Fort Smith's E-List! We knew she was special, but now everyone will know! This article will be great for the scrapbook!

## October 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Update

By Julie Moncrief, President

Lots of good things are planned for our meeting Monday at the Library. Our speaker will be **Tracy Long**, who is vice president of investor relations for Baldor Electric Company. Program Chair JoAnn Gedosh loved the information Tracy shared at an investors' group and invited her to be our speaker for the theme of the "professional status of women." This year's programs center around Zonta International's efforts to improve the **legal, political, economic, health, educational** and **professional** status of women.

Two other guests we are excited to have are **Girl Scouts Amanda Perkins** and **Brittany Reiss**. They will tell us a little bit about their trips we helped sponsor to Washington and England this past summer.

A representative from the **Crisis Center for Women** will join us as well, to receive our gift of \$1,000. The Crisis Center deeply appreciates the Zonta Club of Fort Smith's strong support in the way of financial help, advocacy, and volunteerism. This gift is made possible by our annual geranium sale in April.

We will again enjoy a "Two-Minute International Focus" provided by Jo Carson and Deborah Avillion.

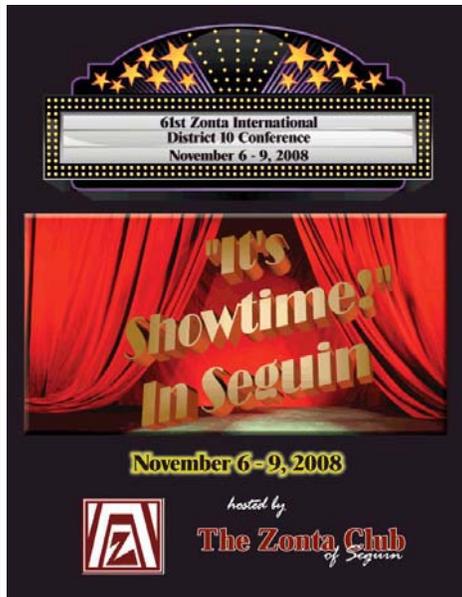
If you want to help provide an orphan with school supplies, you can still bring backpacks and school supplies to the meeting, and those of us traveling November 6 to the District 10 Annual Conference in Seguin, Texas, will deliver your gift. This District 10 service project will support the program called "**Orphan Outreach.**" You can read more about it and the conference at the District 10 website, [www.zontadistrict10.org](http://www.zontadistrict10.org).

We will also report exciting news about an event-in-planning, a celebration by our club of the **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights** by the United Nations. The date for the event is **December 10**, and it will feature a panel discussion on the theme of this year's **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence: "Human Rights for Women -- Human Rights for All."** Our plan is to invite the community, with special invitations to women's organizations in the area, to join us from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Boreham Conference Center at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. The panelists will include **State Representative Lindsley Smith**, who introduced and fought for passage of the bill supporting the Equal Rights Amendment in Arkansas' last legislative session.

Come Monday night to hear more about this exciting event and many others. See you there!



## Early Registration Notice



November 6-9 are the dates of the 61<sup>st</sup> District 10 Conference of Zonta International. It will be held in Seguin, Texas, which is quite a hop, skip and jump away. District 10 has clubs in five states: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Our club has about six members signed up so far to go to Seguin. Some are flying and some are driving. Our Seguin experience will include workshops about anti-human-trafficking efforts in District 10, advocacy, and member shipbuilding; plus club parties, themed luncheons, District 10 business, a memorial service, and an awards banquet.

**Early registration for this conference can be handled on-line with a deadline of October 8,** which is this coming Wednesday. The form is on the website, [www.zontadistrict10.org](http://www.zontadistrict10.org); you will see the registration link on the left-hand column. The Early-bird registration fee is \$245, which is a \$25 discount.

Our club's budget includes funds to be divided amongst those members attending a District 10 or Area 1 meeting. This helps *your* budget a little bit. For more information, call Julie at 479-452-7362. Hope to see you in Seguin! And if not, we promise to fill you in on all the details!



Double, double toil and trouble....

Wait a minute. No trouble here! Just another bewitching, fun-filled Halloween Zontian quarterly.

Date: Thursday, October 30, 6.P.M.  
Place: Jennifer Schmidt's home, 5600 Rye Hill Road East

Your hostesses Jennifer Schmidt, Kim Vann, Sherry Traylor, and Sheryl Flanagan hope you will "fly" --or whatever--

to join us for our annual Halloween dinner. We promise lots of good food and maybe a few surprises. Put on your costume (or not) and join your Zonta "ghoulfriends" for a fun evening.

**Directions: Take Highway 71 South toward Greenwood. Turn left at the stoplight at the top of the hill by KTCS onto Rye Hill Road. Jennifer's house is the fourth one on the right past the gas station.**  
883-2963



## November Birthday Wishes

November 1<sup>st</sup> – Pat Crump  
November 8<sup>th</sup>– ZONTA  
November 15<sup>th</sup>– Julie Moncrief  
November 18<sup>th</sup>– Karen Ford  
November 21<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Moon  
November 27<sup>th</sup>– Marilyn Barr  
November 29<sup>th</sup>– Dolores Chitwood

