

THE ZONTA INSIDER

The Newsletter of the Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley



ZONTA
 CLUB OF
 SANTA CLARITA
 VALLEY

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
 EMPOWERING WOMEN
 THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

EXPLORE THIS ISSUE:

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SERVING INTERNATIONALLY

Dr. Sharon Langenbeck was installed as Zonta International President on July 18th. The challenges presented universally by the Covid-19 global pandemic and the accompanying economic crisis mean that nothing is normal. Even her installation had to be held virtually. She announced that her theme for the biennium fittingly is "**Change, Transitions, and New Opportunities**", as her biennium begins Zonta's new century.

Her theme challenges us, locally and globally, to meet the changes with new ideas; to meet our new century by not simply repeating past efforts but to expand and try new things to meet club goals. **The international goals are ambitious and mission-driven.** They inspire us to mirror them in our own efforts to improve the lives of women and girls.

Zonta's education program goals provide essential support for women in male-dominated disciplines. **Goals for Programs & Projects** increase Zonta's impact and effectiveness in helping women and girls. The program goals include the continuation of advocacy through "Zonta Says No", and

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MARSHA McLEAN

What community has a tap-dancing Mayor? Santa Clarita does! Our own Zontian, Marsha McLean, Council Member of the City of Santa Clarita since 2002 and Mayor in 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019. Where does the tap dancing come in? Well, true to her tradition of raising dollars for local charities, she has shown off her tapping terpsichore talents for seven different charities and raising nearly \$100,000 for Dancing With Our Stars, Santa Clarita-style!

Marsha was raised in the San Fernando Valley (where she learned to tap dance as a child), and she graduated from Reseda High School. When she turned 18, she went to work at the Valley Station of the LAPD in a clerical role. Her job was largely taking dictation from the officers to fill out crime reports. She moved up the ladder of civilian clerical positions.

Marsha's Aunt Katherine was interested in her working for the US State Department, and when Marsha was 22 her aunt showed her a tiny newspaper clipping announcing that the State Department was hiring into the Foreign Service. On a lark, Marsha applied. She was interviewed, took the Civil Service Examination, took a physical exam and was told to report to Washington DC for orientation. The process took 6 weeks, and all that time she didn't even know she was officially hired or if she would be sent overseas.

After all the women she entered the program with had been assigned, she finally received her assignment: 2-3 months filling in for someone in TelAviv, Israel, and after that she would be going to the tough assignment of Paris, France.

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Join this exciting new way to view the 2020 LUNAFEST! Zonta SCV will be presenting the fabulous films created by and about women at a drive-in at Castaic Lake at 6pm on 9/26. You can fill the car with family and friends that you are social distancing with, view the films on a big screen, munch away on your favorite movie treats, and have a great time! As you drive into the parking lot, you will be listening to fabulous music, and there will be lots of movie fun surprises.

Don't forget this is a charity fundraiser, and our club needs to raise funds during the pandemic! We are running short for next year's service budget. The cost of the event is \$100 per car, and it includes 2 snack box meals.

You must have a ticket to join the fun. Tickets can be purchased on Facebook or on our website: www.scvzonta.org/lunafest



SERVING INTERNATIONALLY

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recognize that education is key in achieving gender equality. Objectives are achievable and measurable. Goals continue to focus on gender-based violence. YWPA and JMK will be studied for efficacy over the biennium. Women in Technology awards will continue.

Membership goals, central to Zonta's success locally and internationally, focus on retention, professional development and mentoring, and events with awardee alumnae to encourage their enrollment as Zontians.

Finally, **Financial Resource goals** being central to fulfill Zonta's mission, concentrate on making a difference in the lives of women and girls now and into the future. Current contributions and endowment funds to Zonta International are essential, and consist of a goal of \$4,800,000 to be split among Amelia Earhart Fellowships, Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships, Young Women in Public Affairs Awards, International Projects and the Rose Fund, as well as continuing to build the endowment fund to the long term goal of \$10,000,000. To expand awareness and visibility of Zonta's global charitable efforts, the Zonta International Foundation will now be doing business as "Zonta Foundation for Women".

Like the goals, the **biennial service projects are ambitious and are driven by mission**. Two familiar projects will be continued.

Phase III of "Let Us Learn Madagascar" will continue its goal of addressing education and gender inequality in Madagascar through approaches targeted toward adolescent girls, ensuring that more girls have access to post-primary education and stay in school, and that the country's education system has the capacity to offer quality teaching for enhanced learning outcomes. This program is funded with \$500,000 to UNICEF USA.

Phase II of "Ending Child Marriage" will accelerate addressing the complex sociocultural and structural factors underpinning the practice of child marriage. This global program covers 15 years through 2030 and works in 12 countries with high prevalence in child marriage: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. This biennium, the program is funded with \$1,500,000 to UNFPA and UNICEF via UNICEF USA.

The two new service projects that have been selected by President Sharon are equally inspired by mission and meet the outlined goals. The first is **"Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru"**, funded with \$1,000,000 to UNICEF USA. The project will contribute to guaranteeing the rights of indigenous and rural adolescents, especially girls, and respond to their needs by preventing pregnancy, addressing mental health concerns and providing a protective environment from violence by providing quality, gender-sensitive, and culturally adapted

health, education and protection services. The project will focus on the regions of Huancavelica and Ucayali and emphasize mental health care and violence prevention for girls.

The second new project is **"Delivering Survivor-Centered Response to Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste"**. The ambitious goal of the project is that all women and girls in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste live life free from violence. Two out of every three women in the region report having experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, *AND three out of four women and men believe a man is justified in physically beating his wife*. The project will seek to provide health service providers with the knowledge and capacity to deliver quality essential health services. The project is funded with \$1,000,000 to UNFPA.

These goals and service projects for women in countries far away are inspirational to our club as we go forward with our own programs and projects driven by the same mission to improve the lives of women and girls here in our own community.

For more information go to https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Membership_Tools/Election_and_Voting.aspx?WebsiteKey=fa59e7e8-9db0-4736-b8df-7a6476fb9063





CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF VOTES FOR WOMEN IN USA!

Written by Lois Bauccio

A few days ago on August 26, 2020, American women celebrated the 100th anniversary of the final certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, granting women the right to vote. Not for all women...but more on that later. For a change to the Constitution to take place, three-fourths of the states must ratify the change within a deadline. This is a vote of the elected leaders of the state.

The state to take ratification over the top was Tennessee. Suffragists were running out of time, and while only one more state was needed for ratification, all the southern states were vehemently opposed. Tennessee was, in fact, deeply divided over the issue, but the state was the only one left with any room for discussion remaining. The issue was hotly debated in the Tennessee capital building. That is where the story of a mother's influence over her son made all the difference!

On the morning of the vote, August 18th, 23-year-old Representative Harry T. Burn, a Republican from McMinn County, received a letter from his mother. She told him she had read in the press that he was slated to vote against the amendment, and she wrote "Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt." (Carrie Chapman Catt was leader of the National Woman Suffrage Association.) Pandemonium broke out in the state house when Burn cast his "yea" vote that broke the tie to give the 19th Amendment its full ratification

The battle for women's suffrage endured for more than eighty years!

certification followed on August 26, bringing the 19th Amendment into law.

Just 10 weeks later, more than 8 million women across the country voted for the first time on November 2, 1920.

From 1848, when the Seneca Falls Convention organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott until that first election day, 72 years of battle endured. In the end, the founders of the movement were no longer alive to see their success, and those who brought it to victory were not yet born when Susan B. Anthony began her fight more than 80 years earlier.

The 19th Amendment reads: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state *on account of sex*. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

And yet, there were those women who remained disenfranchised. Although Frederick Douglass gave the keynote address at Seneca Falls, and former slaves were in attendance, most black women were held back from voting until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed.

Ladies, our vote was hard won. Lesson? Without your vote you have no voice. VOTE in 2020! (See scvzonta.org for more information.)zon





Marsha McLean: Community Leader

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She had a great time in Israel, she even stayed in a kibbutz for a time before heading to that dream job at the American Embassy in Paris. She and her roommate landed a great two bedroom apartment with house-keeping service! An even bigger dream was meeting her future husband, Dale, who was serving in Paris as an Army MP. They dated for two years and became engaged. Marsha followed Dale to New York when his tour ended, and they were married in the tiny upstate town of Northcreek with Dale's parents in attendance.

The newlyweds relocated to Southern California, and Marsha returned to the LAPD. She soon learned she was pregnant and needed to join the private sector. She began working for Home Savings and Loan, but before long, the couple bought a home in the Sky Blue Mesa area of the Santa Clarita Valley in 1972. Marsha became a community volunteer through PTA when her oldest son entered kindergarten.

Dale purchased the home maintenance business he had been working for in the Valley. His administrator and co-owner was Marsha, and she could then work from home with her growing family. (She eventually had 3 kids, 2 boys and a girl. She now has 6 grandkids.) Working from home also gave her more time for her growing volunteerism. Soon her efforts would change the community forever *and* for the better.

She became aware that plans were underway for a huge dump to be built in the pristine Elsmere Canyon, and their activities would proceed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, clogging our

roads with dump trucks and changing the environment forever. She was outraged, and with a friend formed the SCV Canyons Preservation Committee in 1989. With dogged determination this community leader pushed and cajoled every official group from the City of Santa Clarita, the US Forest Service, Congressman Buck McKeon, to Senator Barbara Boxer - anyone who would meet with her in order to defeat the 190-million-ton-dump proposal. She inspired 5,000 people to attend the public hearing held at Valencia High School, an historic phenomenon. She requested and got legislation passed to regain Rim-of-the-Valley Status for Elsmere. She made sure no dump is ever built in Elsmere Canyon on the privately-owned portion of Elsmere and in the Angeles National Forest. Today, after more than 25 years, Elsmere Canyon is now in public ownership and preserved forever.

In 2002 her service became official as she was elected as Council Member for the City of Santa Clarita. In that capacity she has been a powerful leader of the League of California Cities, the SCV Transportation Coalition, the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments, and so much more. A few years ago she founded the North LA County Cities Protection Coalition to speak with one voice regarding negative impacts of High-Speed Rail.

Marsha joined Zonta SCV in 1998. She served on the Status of Women, Community Service, Nominating and Membership Committees, as well as on the Board and as 2nd Vice President. Since her role on the Council she has less time to actively participate on Zonta committees, but she has remained an enrolled Zontian and has been proud to attend our events and be an advocate and promoter for the Women in Service event each year. She is always with us when we are presented commendations from the City.

Over the years, Marsha has remained a community volunteer for numerous nonprofit advisory boards and fundraising events. Our club is proud of Marsha McLean's accomplishments both for Zonta and for the community!





Birthdays for September

- 2 - Gloria Mercado-Fortine
- 3 - Marsha McLean
- 11 - Darleen Lyons
- 12 - Sue Hayward
- 16 - Yorleni Sapp
- 28 - Peggy Edwards

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!



Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Business Meeting. | Sept. 9 |
| Lifeforward Workshop. | Sept. 12 |
| LUNAFEST Drive In. | Sept. 26 |

Reflections: Healthy Kids Club

In the early 1990s, Zonta SCV decided to create a new service project. Community nonprofits and civic leaders were interviewed to determine the most pressing need for women and/or girls in the community. The problem was gangs. A Zontian, Peggy Freeman, who was the Executive Director of the Samuel Dixon Family Health Center located in Val Verde, asked Zonta to partner with her to form a group for young girls offering an alternative to gang activity in Val Verde. The Healthy Kids Club was born.

We started with 10 girls age 9 - 14. We met in the tiny Sam Dixon office, but we quickly outgrew it and moved into the club house in Val Verde Park across the street from the clinic.

\$5,000 was donated by the Los Angeles Times for seed money. While mentoring the girls with life lessons, we offered fun activities to keep them engaged, such as cooking, crafts, and gardening. We had positive talks about manners, self-respect, staying in school and the like. We took field trips (a great one to JPL to see the work done by Dr. Sharon Langenbeck), and had events and parties with their parents.

Some volunteers for HKC were Mary Spring, Lois Bauccio, Darleen Lyons, JoAnn Rodriguez, Lydia Coffman, Pat Allen, Pat Warford, Mary Carvalho, JoAnn Darcy, and many more.

We loved HKC; so did the Val Verde families we served. (A note: Zonta International gave



BITS & PIECES

Deadline for publication is 25th of the month

From Danise Davis: I changed Real Estate Brokerage and am now with Compass. Compass is a very large tech-driven realty company covering all of the US. This means the tools and systems I am learning are mind-boggling to me, and very exciting, too! This, combined with the new requirements of helping people buy and sell houses within the Covid-19 environment, means I'm learning new things and/or changed rules every day. All my contact info remains the same and I'm still working with Tracy Hauser & team from our office in Valencia.

From Sue Hayward: I am having a great time in RI. Visiting with friends and family and eating all the wonderful food that RI is famous for. Going to the places that I have fond memories of. Miss you all and will be back on Sep 16th.

From Edna Dimataga-Fernandez: On the 4th of July, our 7-year-old daughter, Ella, was selected as the Mini Grand Marshal for the City of Santa Clarita's very 1st Patriotic Pee-Wee Parade. It was a great honor! Mayor Cameron Smyth picked up Ella at our house & she got to ride in the patriotic trolley. This past week, Ella has been asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the State of the City virtual event on October 22nd. She will also have lunch with Mayor Smyth and our City Council Members. Ella has no idea what a BIG deal this is. I know she will appreciate these things when she's older. (Editors: We see a Zontian in the making!)



From Christine Sexton: I welcomed my second grandchild, Harmony Grace, August 10th. 7#; adorable; dark hair and dimples! In keeping with my mother's family line of 4 boys, 1 girl (me). 4 boys, 1 girl grandchildren, and now 4 boys, 1 girl GREAT grandchildren!! Big brother Caleb is happy so far...Grandma Christine and Papa Ray are thrilled and blessed beyond measure. Harmony brought Joy to 2020!!



From Barb Cochran: I recently spent a lovely weekend in Las Vegas with Chris and Jerry Miller. (Editors: Chris is a past 2 time Zonta SCV president.) We all ate too much food, but it was soooooo good. We had a great time, and I even won \$85! Woo Hoo!

From Judy Penman: Doug and I just had our maiden voyage on the 33 ft. RV we purchased from my son. We finally got it from Oregon to Arizona in June. Our first trip was to the mountains in Flagstaff to cool off. Phoenix has had over 45 days of average 115 degree temperatures! Hope you all can come visit when this mess is over and when it gets cooler. Miss my Zonta sisters. (Editor: We miss you too!)



Life forward

Believe, Build, Be. A Virtual Reboot



Join us as Michelle Witkin kicks off our 2020 *Life forward* workshops presenting the topic "Challenging Times, Challenging Emotions, Coping with Anxiety, Loneliness, and Hopelessness" on Saturday, September 12th from 10:00-11:15. The workshop will be presented virtually via the Zoom platform.

Information covered will be:

- Common things most people do that fuel anxiety
- Coping with uncertain times
- Important components for staying emotionally healthy
- When to seek extra help

Dr. Witkin is a Licensed Psychologist in Valencia specializing in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and anxiety disorder treatment. For information or registration for the workshop, email lifeforward@scvzonta.org

FROM THE EDITORS...

We hope you are all enjoying our new newsletter format, "The Zonta Insider". We encourage you to forward it on to anyone you think might be interested in becoming a member, and be sure to let the Membership Committee know you have a prospective member. Zonta's social media, too. And don't forget to "share". Also, please remember that you can get more information on the club website which is scvzonta.org. Please let us know if you have any ideas for articles or any comments at all. We are here to communicate, and that is a two-way street! Contact us at newsletter@scvzonta.org, and THANK YOU!

Your Co-Editors, **Barbara Cochran and Lois Bauccio**



Closing With the Collect

Let us be done with fault-finding
and leave off self seeking.

