



# Boca Bulletin

## President's Message

Dear Boca Zontians,

Welcome to Spring! April is a time when we celebrate Easter and Passover. This April is proving to be challenging for all of us here, across the country and around the world with the pandemic COVID-19. We will celebrate while maintaining social distancing and “sheltering in place” – a very different concept for all of us.

Our activities in Zonta usually include participating in the Field of Hope Survivor Speak-out held at Victim Services in West Palm Beach. Funds we donate to the Not Just Me Foundation are used to purchase food for the event and many of us attend and volunteer help, support and advocate for survivors of sexual assault. Further, some of us volunteer to participate in the Women's Breast and Heart Health Initiative's Outreach in underserved communities to educate women about the importance of both breast and heart health and providing the opportunity for neighborhood women to access mammograms and heart screenings in their own neighborhoods. Additionally, we usually have the opportunity to volunteer at Boca Helping Hands.

All of those activities and opportunities to volunteer, as well as our Area 3 Meeting, have been cancelled due to the precautions needed to cope and contain the spread of COVID-19.

However, April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and while we cannot participate in Field of Hope, we can reflect on the goal of SAAM which is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it. SAAM calls attention to the fact that sexual harassment, assault, and abuse is widespread and impacts every person in our communities. The theme, “I Ask” helps empower all of us put consent into practice. Consent is everything! One step toward prevention is always respecting the personal and emotional boundaries of others, demonstrated by asking for consent. A significant part of consent means not only asking, but listening to and fully accepting the answer, i.e. not exerting pressure on someone to change their mind.

SAAM begins on April 1 with “Start By Believing Day” which focuses on changing how society responds to disclosures of sexual assault. Very often individuals do not disclose as they might fear that they will not be believed or they will be blamed for what happened and shamed. A more positive response can improve the person's sense of well-being and increase the chances that they will reach out for help.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

APRIL — 2020

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS 2020

- April 6—Board Meeting **(cancelled)**
- April 15—Business Meeting and distribution of service funds, Pavilion Grille, 5:30 pm \*
- May 5—Board Meeting, Boca West Library, 5:30 pm \*
- May 20—Business Meeting and installation, Pavilion Grille, 5:30 pm \*
- June 2—Joint Board Meeting—outgoing and incoming—Boca West Library, 5:30 pm
- June 17—Business Meeting, Pavilion Grille, 5:30 pm
- July 4-8—Zonta International Convention (see page 4)

\* **scheduled, but very tentative based on the status of COVID-19 & venue availability**

ZONTA CLUB OF BOCA RATON AREA  
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[HTTP://WWW.ZONTABOCARATON.ORG](http://WWW.ZONTABOCARATON.ORG)

President—Jane Adams  
Vice President—Shelly Olkey  
Treasurer—Amy Robbins  
Board of Directors  
Loretta Fink, Shirin Weisman  
and Nancy Thompson (1 yr)  
Recording Sec'y, Bus.—Pat Cox  
Recording Sec'y, Bd—Jo Kuczenski  
Corresponding Sec'y—Cooky Duboff



Boca Helping Hands is always in need of pantry items. Please bring your food donations to any of our meetings. Diane Sawchuk will be happy to collect them and take them to the center. She is always happy to answer your questions about our work at BHH. Contact Diane at 561-477-0852, dianesawchuk@comcast.net.

**Palm Beach Victim Services**

Donations of children’s books (ages 0-18), coloring books, games, toys, etc., will be collected by Jane at all meetings.

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April 29<sup>th</sup> is Denim Day which also shows support for survivors and raises awareness of the devastating impacts of sexual violence. Denim Day began as a protest by the women in the Italian Parliament to a decision made by their Supreme Court related to a sexual assault conviction. An 18-year-old was raped by her driving instructor. She pressed charges and he was arrested, prosecuted, and convicted. The case was appealed and went to the Italian High Court where the conviction was overturned and the perpetrator released. The Court declared that since the victim wore very tight jeans, the perpetrator could not have removed them, she had to help him remove them, therefore she was a willing participant and it was consensual sex and not a rape. The women of the Italian Parliament were so enraged that they protested by wearing jeans on the Supreme Court steps. The news of the decision spread, as did the protest. Now organizations around the world coordinate community-wide Denim Days to show support for survivors and raise awareness about the crimes of sexual assault.

While we are still in a position to “shelter in place” and practice social distancing due to COVID-19, and all our businesses except for essential services are closed, it is unclear when we will be able to hold a club meeting. If we are unable to meet in April, we will be electing our officers electronically.

I look forward to seeing all of you when we can again hold a meeting or get together for an event.

PLEASE STAY SAFE!

*Jane*



Diane Sawchuk—Apr 8th  
Loretta Fink—Apr 29th  
Mary Anne Souza—Apr 29th

It is only in our darkest hours that we may discover the true strength of the brilliant light within ourselves that can never, ever be dimmed.

March 23, 2020



Dear Zonta members,

Who would have foreseen that, within only a few days, lives for almost of all us have changed dramatically in order to slow down the spreading of COVID-19? Many of you are experiencing not only shelter-in-place mandates, with all the difficulties and sad consequences that come with them, but also much more forceful impacts on your own health and that of your loved ones, on your businesses and on your jobs.

While in these times of hardships and uncertainty, we are full of concerns, we also experience heartwarming acts of solidarity. Yesterday afternoon, in the vast courtyard behind the building I live in, a DJ performed for all of the neighbors. And, at 6 p.m. throughout Germany, people were playing or singing Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* from their balconies or at their open windows.

This is a time for us to reach out to the people we are connected with, among them our fellow Zontians. The idea of supporting each other is in Zonta's and all Zontians' DNA. Together, we are finding creative ways to help and encourage each other. Already, I received an e-mail with only a subject line: "How are you?". We are called upon to open our ears, eyes and hearts to think of ways to respond to this unprecedented situation. One example of how it especially affects women and girls is the increased risk of domestic violence.

I just wanted to let you know that my fellow Board members and I are thinking of you. We are sending you our best wishes. Like you, we work hard to keep up with our tasks. You can be assured that we will inform you as soon as we can about major Zonta business decisions and developments.

Warm regards, and stay healthy and safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susanne".

**Dr. Susanne von Bassewitz,**  
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4 – 8 JULY 2020

Don't forget to register—it'll be fun and informative! There are lots of special events and tours, too!

Registration	13 February – 3 May	4 May – 15 June
Zontian - full rate	US\$470	US\$530
Zontian - single day	US\$195	US\$205
Non-Zontian/ Guest	US\$165	US\$175
Golden Z Member	US\$75	

<http://convention.zonta.org/Registration/Convention-Registration>

## Convention Registration



### Awardee Program – Saturday, 4 July

Past recipients of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship, Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship, and Young Women in Public Affairs Award are invited to come together for a half day event prior to the Opening Ceremony. This is an opportunity for our Zonta awardees, from the district and international level, to connect and extend their professional network.

### Opening Ceremony & Reception – Saturday, 4 July

Convention officially opens with our traditional flag procession and colorful native dress. Join us for these festivities plus entertainment and keynote speakers. Your convention committee promises they have special plans in store for you in honor of centennial celebrations – you will not want to miss it.

### Friendship Dinners – Saturday, 4 July & Monday, 6 July

Are you looking to experience the diversity of Chicago's restaurants? Relax and enjoy the company of fellow Zontians and we will take care of the reservations. Friendship Dinners are secured restaurant spaces chosen by your preferred fare. Select your choice for these ticketed dinners during registration. [REGISTER](#)

### Celebrate on the Lake – Sunday, 5 July

Nothing could be finer than dining on a cruise ship on Lake Michigan on a summer night. Enjoy views of the best skyline in the world while enjoying dinner, a DJ and fireworks on a multi-story luxury ship with an open rooftop deck. Seats are available for 1,200 guests. This event will sell out so register early to reserve your spot.

### Meet Chicago Women – Monday, 6 July & Tuesday, 7 July

Meet Chicago Women is your opportunity to visit with women leaders of Chicago in various realms of work. Enjoy an evening of networking while learning about these outstanding organizations. A final list of participating organizations will be issued closer to convention so indicate on your registration if you are interested in reserving a spot. Light food and transportation will be included for all locations. Due to the nature of this event and anticipated interest, this opportunity is only open to Zontians.

### Memorial Service – Tuesday, 7 July

This solemn ceremony pays tribute to the Zontians who have passed during the biennium. Governors can learn how to submit the names of all Zontians in good standing who are to be recognized on this website. All members are welcome to attend.

### Centennial Anniversary Closing Dinner – Wednesday, 8 July

Celebrate the closing of the Centennial Biennium with a memorable evening at the jewel of Chicago – the Aon Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier. Seen in countless movies and recognized for its impressive dome, this venue offers unique views of Lake Michigan and the city. After dinner, stay for the entertainment and fireworks and make memories. Seating is limited to 1,400 and will be based on first-come, first served.