



Zonta Club of St. Paul
Member of Zonta International
Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Zonta Paul

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<http://www.zontastpaul.org>

Greetings!

We met at Romelle's in July to continue planning for our High Tea special event to be held on August 20th at Becketwood. Thanks to Romelle and Joan for a productive meeting and delicious dinner. We worked on the menu as well as the beginnings of table settings. We hope to have 10 tables of 4 guests. As of this writing, we have 18 registered and paid guests. It is less than 2 weeks until our events. Please contact your friends and families regarding registration for the event. We would like to fill out all 40 spots in order to maximize our service project revenue.

The tea will have four courses. Cost for the tea will be \$25, with all proceeds going to our service fund. We have plans to use some of the funds to help women in North Minneapolis who have been displaced from the spring Tornado, as well as other projects to improve the status of women.

Romelle has been working on fund raising to secure items for our raffle items and also donations for the food courses. So far, she has tickets to the History Theatre, Park Square, a gift certificate from Café Latte and a shopping card from Rainbow and Cub. She has promises from Theatre in the Round and Great Waters Brewery. If you have a contact, or can get some items to fill out the baskets (tentatively to be raffled during our tea), please let Romelle know.

Invitations were sent out to members in a special mailing the week of July 11th.

The following are upcoming dates for meeting and events:

August 9 – Becketwood at Dorothy's for Tea Planning Meeting – dinner will be at 5:30; Cost will be approximately \$12-14. Please be prompt for the dinner if you plan to eat; the Becketwood dining room will serve at 5:30. We will then convene to Dorothy's or to the room where the tea is going to be for our planning meeting.

Dorothy passed out a work schedule to everyone, along with a tentative list of table setting items needed and a diagram of table placement. Attached to this letter is a summary of the courses, person responsible for each item, as well as unassigned food/tasks.

Anyone needing a ride or wishing to carpool, please contact Peggy or Romelle.

Please RSVP to Dorothy by August 7th if you are planning on attending or if you are unable to attend. We will have samples of the two ham sandwich selections at the meeting to determine which one will be on the menu.

August 20 – High Tea at Becketwood

September 16-18 - District 7 Fall Conference in St. Cloud

September 27 – Connie's (soup mix project for Jeremiah Program)



Somalia Famine

Lou and I stopped at Lucy’s Ethiopian Restaurant on Franklin Avenue in the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis last week. The restaurant previously had been an Indian cuisine restaurant. Neither of us had eaten Ethiopian cuisine and thought we would give it a try. The restaurant is named Lucy’s in honor of the 3.2 million year old skeleton found in Ethiopia in 1974.

Thinking about the Ethiopian food struck a chord with the recent plight of Somalians where millions of people are in a terrible famine. The pictures of the children are especially heartbreaking.

Somalia is a member state of the United Nations. It does not have a Zonta chapter. As a matter of fact, in looking at the African map on the Zonta International Website, there are very few Zonta chapters in the whole of Africa.

The Twin Cities are home to the largest Somali expatriate community in the United States. Severe drought and the world’s worst food crisis have put 12 million people world-wide in desperate need of assistance. In Somalia alone, it is estimated that 3.7 million are in need of immediate, lifesaving assistance. The United Nations estimates that a billion dollars is needed to stave off a major humanitarian catastrophe in Somalia.

The Horn of Africa is suffering a devastating drought that has been compounded by conflict in Somalia, bad governance and spiraling food prices. Tens of thousands of people have already died, and tens of thousands more have fled Somalia in hopes of finding food aid at refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia.

Somalia is located in Eastern Africa, bordering the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, east of Ethiopia. The name Somali originally came from the two Somali words of SOO and MAAL that means, “Go and milk it”. That shows that the Somali people were rural and herders, who moves from a place-to-place seeking for a good grazing lands.



The original settlers of the Somali region were ethnic Cushites from the fertile lakes of southern Ethiopia. This group is sub-divided into a number of other ethnicities, which are still readily recognized (and fought over) today.

In 1959, Somalia was granted independence, and power transferred smoothly from the Italian administrators to the by then well-developed Somali political culture. Somalia had been occupied by numerous cultures and forces throughout its history.

In 1969, army commander Major General Mahammad Siad Barre assumed leadership of the officers who deposed the civilian government. The new regime’s goals included an end to “tribalism, nepotism, corruption and misrule.” The country was renamed the Somali Democratic Republic.



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Somalia's literacy rate was estimated at only 5 percent in 1972. After adopting the new script, the SRC launched a "cultural revolution" aimed at making the entire population literate in two years. The first part of the massive literacy campaign was carried out in a series of three-month sessions in urban and rural sedentary areas and reportedly resulted in several hundred thousand people learning to read and write. As many as 8,000 teachers were recruited, mostly among government employees and members of the armed forces, to conduct the program.

The campaign in settled areas was followed by preparations for a major effort among the nomads that got underway in August 1974. The program in the countryside was carried out by more than 20,000 teachers, half of whom were secondary school students whose classes were suspended for the duration of the school year. The rural program also compelled a privileged class of urban youth to share the hardships of the nomadic pastoralists. Although affected by the onset of a severe drought, the program appeared to have achieved substantial results in the field in a short period of time. Nevertheless, the UN estimate of Somalia's literacy rate in 1990 was only 24 percent.

Faced with shrinking popularity and an armed and organized domestic resistance, Siad Barre unleashed a reign of terror against the Majeerteen, the Hawiye, and the Isaaq, carried out by the Red Berets (Duub Cas), a special unit recruited from the president's Mareehaan clansmen.

In November 1986, the dreaded Red Berets unleashed a campaign of terror and intimidation on a frightened citizenry. Meanwhile, the ministries atrophied and the army's officer corps was purged of competent career officers on suspicion of insufficient loyalty to the president.

In addition, ministers and bureaucrats plundered what was left of the national treasury after it had been repeatedly skimmed by the top family.

Following the outbreak of the civil war and the ensuing collapse of the central government, Somalia's residents reverted to local forms of conflict resolution, secular, traditional or Islamic law, with a provision for appeal of all sentences. The legal structure in Somalia is thus divided along three lines: civil law, religious law and customary law.

Islamic shari'a law has traditionally played a significant part in Somali society. In theory, it has served as the basis for all national legislation in every Somali constitution. In practice, however, it only applied to common civil cases such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and family matters.

This changed after the start of the civil war, when a number of new shari'a courts began to spring up in many different cities and towns across the country. These new shari'a courts serve three functions; namely, to pass rulings in both criminal and civil cases, to organize a militia capable of arresting criminals, and to keep convicted prisoners incarcerated.

The shari'a courts, though structured along simple lines, feature a conventional hierarchy of a chairman, vice-chairman and four judges. A police force that reports to the court enforces the judges' rulings, but also helps settle community disputes and apprehend suspected criminals. In addition, the courts manage detention centers where criminals are kept. An independent finance committee is also assigned the task of collecting and managing tax revenue levied on regional merchants by the local authorities.



In March 2009, Somalia's newly established coalition government announced that it would implement shari'a as the nation's official judicial system.

Geographic: Area

Total: 637,657 sq. km water: 10,320 sq. km land: 627,337 sq. km comparatively: slightly smaller than Texas. This fact surprised me; somehow I thought Somalia was a much smaller country. Somalia has the longest coastline on the continent, with a seaboard that stretches 3,025 kilometers. Its terrain consists mainly of plateaus, plains and highlands

In the north, a scrub-covered, semi-desert plain referred as the Guban lies parallel to the Gulf of Aden littoral. With a width of twelve kilometers in the west to as little as two kilometers in the east, the plain is bisected by watercourses that are essentially beds of dry sand except during the rainy seasons. When the rains arrive, the Guban's low bushes and grass clumps transform into lush vegetation. This coastal strip is part of the Ethiopian xeric grasslands and shrublands ecoregion.

Geographic: Climate

Principally desert; December to February - northeast monsoon, moderate temperatures in north and very hot in south; May to October - southwest monsoon, torrid in the north and hot in the south, irregular rainfall, hot and humid periods (tangambili) between monsoons.

Due to Somalia's proximity to the equator, there is not much seasonal variation in its climate. Hot conditions prevail year-round along with periodic monsoon winds and irregular rainfall.

Mean daily maximum temperatures range from 86 to 104 °F, except at higher elevations and along the eastern seaboard, where the effects of a cold offshore current can be felt. In Mogadishu, for instance, average afternoon highs range from 82 °F to 90 °F in April. Some of the highest mean annual temperatures in the world have been recorded in the country.

Economic sectors

Agriculture: 65% industry: 10% services: 25% (2000 est.)

Despite the lack of effective national governance, Somalia has maintained a healthy informal economy, largely based on livestock, remittance/money transfer companies, and telecommunications.

People & Culture: Population

8,025,190 note: this estimate was derived from an official census taken in 1975 by the Somali Government; population counting in Somalia is complicated by the large number of nomads and by refugee movements in response to famine and clan warfare (July 2003 est.)

The median age of Somalia is 17.8 years. They are 5th in infant mortality. The fertility rate for a woman is 6.35 children.

People & Culture: Ethnic Groups

Somali 85%, Bantu and other non-Somali 15% (including Arabs 30,000).

People & Culture: Languages

Somali (official), Arabic, Italian, English
Somali meals are meat driven, vegetarianism is relatively rare). Goat, beef, lamb and sometimes chicken is fried in ghee, or grilled or broiled. It is



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spiced with turmeric, coriander, cumin and curry and eaten with basmati rice for lunch, dinner and sometimes breakfast.

We are excited to have her as our candidate and believe that she can be a District Scholarship winner!

Natural hazards:

Recurring droughts; frequent dust storms over eastern plains in summer; floods during rainy season

Environment - current issues:

Famine; use of contaminated water contributes to human health problems; deforestation; overgrazing; soil erosion; desertification

The above information taken from the United Nations Member States pages and the CIA website.

Jane Klausman Club Scholarship Recipient

Here is a little information about our candidate for the district level Jane Klausman Scholarship Award:

Her name is Hanna Rivard, and she is a senior at Northwestern College in St. Paul, and lives in Stacy, Minnesota. She is majoring in Entrepreneurial Business and is designing the major herself, as Northwestern did not quite offer the degree she was looking for, despite all of its advantages. She specifically wanted to begin her own horse training and instructional business and has already started down that path with Cambria Horsemanship. She also does some acting and modeling, loves the outdoors, camping, hiking, exploring, and so on. Her family has four dogs and she has done a lot of dog training as well, especially through 4-H, where she was active for over 10 years.

Coming Birthdays

“Happy Birthday”

♪♪ Carole – September 1st ♪♪

See you all August 9th!

Peggy