



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 2, 2009-2010 New Member Orientation and Lunch from 11:45am - 1:30pm. Sponsored by the Board. Open to new members only.

Wednesday, September 2 - Board Meeting at 2:00pm

Tuesday, September 8 - Drop In Social 5:00-7:00
Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122

Thursday, September 10 -Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs at 7:00 pm at the Club House. This month's assigned movie is TBA. Please check your inbox for additional details. Hosted by Melaine Bales and Jeanne Aufmuth. Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more information.

Tuesday, September 15 Investment Club at 6:30 pm
For info: Wanda Cavanaugh, 851-0210

Wednesday, September 16 - LUNCHEON MEETING 11:30 am
Steve Levy, Director and senior economist of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy (CCSCE), California State Budget
HOSTED BY IRIS KOROL

Tuesday, September 22 - Book Group at 7:30 pm
Call Jeanne McDonnell 321 5260

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto
475 Homer Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301



www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

September 2009 Newsletter

Co-Presidents: Christine Shambora, Sandra Pearson

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

Presidents' Message

We hope you have had a great summer. It has continued to be a busy time at the Clubhouse! In late June we held a retreat for the new board that was both productive and a bonding experience for all who attended. We passed a motion to make Community Outreach a standing committee for the club. You'll be hearing more about that in the near future.

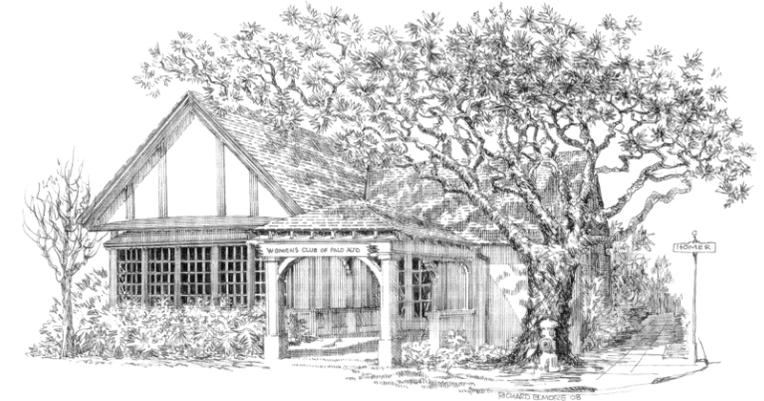
June also brought the delivery of a new stove thanks to a lot of legwork by Sharon Small and Jana Stevens. In July, House and Grounds held a meeting to organize for the coming year and later that month the Committee held a workday as well. Several projects are moving toward completion including plans for the new bathroom. Look for a more detailed article in this month's newsletter.

Another big project that has been underway this summer is a new web site for the club (www.womansclubofpaloalto.org). Along with adding photos and additional information for members, one of the main goals has been to make our web site more useful to prospective renters. The rental contract was revised and event photos were updated. Rentals continue to be an important source of income for the club.

There are some tasks at the clubhouse for which we still need volunteers. We are looking for a club photographer and until we finalize a new landscaping plan we could use a couple of people to give some periodic TLC to our front yard. Let us know if you are interested in helping out.

September 16th is our first luncheon and you won't want to miss it. Steve Levy, California economist, will speak and we will be welcoming 14 new members to the club.

Cordially, Christine and Sandra



Wednesday, September 16

Steve Levy,

Director and senior economist of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy (CCSCE),

California State Budget

HOSTED BY IRIS KOROL

11:30 Member and Guest Sign-in

12:00 Luncheon is Served

12:15 President's Welcome Program & Dessert

Luncheon is offered at \$5.00 for members, \$10 for guests

Look Inside!

Book Club, History Corner,
House and Grounds Report, Pilates and Hiking,
New Member Welcome, New Web Site, .

Kudos Corner

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Book Group

Tuesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.

A History of Australia

We are launching our fall Australian series by reading history, reader's choice of *Fatal Shore* by Robert Hughes, *Commonwealth of Thieves* by Thomas Kennealy, or *A Short History of Australia* by Manning Clark.

I read *Fatal Shore*, that started with a very compelling description of the deplorable treatment of people convicted of crime in England in the 18th century. Hangings seem to have provided entertainment for the masses, the description of jails made them seem considerably worse than a pig sty. When the government thought of sending criminals away, including thousands to America, those individuals could be considered lucky. This book deals almost entirely with the founding of Australia, and contributes to a belief that progress is good and we are lucky to live now. Flogging for stealing one lamb seems a bit extreme.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday, adjust for holidays, new members welcome.

Books to come are:

October, memoir *A Fortunate Life*, A. B. Facey;

-*Jeanne McDonnell*

Kudos Corner

This month special recognition and thanks go to: **Melaine Bales** for updating our membership database, contacting new members and hosting a welcome new members lunch on September 2nd; **Julie Jerome** for producing the 2009-2010 yearbook; **Barbara Klein** and her committee for putting together an excellent slate of programs for this coming year; **Jan Heilman** for enlisting luncheon chairs for the year (no easy task!); **Donna Bohling**, a new member, for building our new website; **Iris Korol** and her committee for hosting the September luncheon; The entire **Rental Committee** for their continued hard work and **Gail Woolley** for her efforts to update our event photos; **Jana Stevens** and the **House and Grounds Committee** for their tireless efforts to maintain and improve our beautiful facility.

History Corner

Women Vote

The Club history committee has begun planning for recognition in 2011 of the centennial of the year that California women managed to convince enough male voters in the state to vote yes on a woman suffrage amendment to the state constitution. California then became the sixth, and most populous state where women had gained full and equal voting rights, all six in the West.

The expression "full and equal" is necessary because in some other states women had managed to acquire limited voting rights that applied only to their local school districts or towns. For example, in 1887, Syracuse, Kansas had the first (and maybe the last) all-women town council in the nation. Argonia, Kansas had the first female mayor in the United States, even though the women were ineligible to vote in other than municipal elections.

Two of our club members had a significant impact on the status of women, Alice Park early on, and Emily Elliott-Pardee Karns Dixon (she married three times) at the time in 1911 when the state Amendment came up for a vote. Alice Park worked with the state suffrage organization and subsequently promoted women's rights in other states and nations. She donated her extensive historic collection to the Hoover Institution. Emily E. P. K. Dixon headed the Palo Alto campaign in 1911. She arranged for programs that featured influential male speakers and convinced a group of women to go around town knocking on doors to personally promote a positive vote. As an influential citizen herself, she also got a full front page of the Palo Alto Times in favor of woman suffrage.

The state of Washington in 2010 is marking its centennial with a major traveling exhibit, Californians have yet to show in any significant way an understanding that history matters, and in this case, matters a great deal. The Nineteenth Amendment passed, with difficulty, in 1920, giving women equal voting rights throughout the nation because California and other western states had furnished the impetus.

-*Jeanne McDonnell*

Did you go surfing this summer?

Well even if you didn't, you can surf on over to our new web site at www.womansclubofpaloalto.org. We have new club pictures up, a more complete historical timeline of the club and a new interactive calendar. Many of the sections contain more detail about club activities including a listing of this year's programs, information on past philanthropic grant recipients and a new page where members can list volunteer opportunities in the community. We would love to hear your feedback and we promise to keep the content up to date.

Welcoming new and returning members

We'd like to make all our members feel welcome at our events and especially our monthly luncheons so we are asking your help. Though we all like to reconnect with old friends let's try to reach out and include friends we don't know as well. At the luncheons we ask that you take a moment to introduce each other around the table. Saving seats can unintentionally make others feel unwelcome so please leave some places for club members that are new. One of the founding principles of our club is friendship and we need to insure that extends to everyone

House and Grounds' accomplishments and plans for the coming year

The House and Grounds committee held its kick-off meeting on July 9th. We are pleased to have an expanded committee this year with many new members eager to contribute their talents. Our primary focus will be on designing and building the new bathrooms. We are grateful to those whose contributions made this possible. Monty Anderson, of Cody, Anderson, Wasney Architects has generously offered their professional services and a plan is underway for a beautiful design. Margaret Feuer will manage the construction process which should begin early next year. Meeting ADA requirements, marble countertops and subway tiles are a few of the considerations on the drawing board.

Once the bathroom design is complete, Delia Laitin, Aino Vieira Da Rosa and Caroline Willis will focus outdoors. They will design a new landscape plan and irrigation system for our grounds.

Wanna have fun, get fit, and hang out with your WC friends?

Hedy McAdams and I are trying to bring healthy back to the Woman's Club. We've got a two pronged fitness approach planned for this fall pending your interest and approval. Hedy's looking for one or two ladies to share organizational responsibilities with her for the Hiking Club. At one time there were quite a few of you hikers in the house, not to mention hike "designers" (those planning creative day trips and joint projects with special interest groups), but lack of a strong co-leader left you all taking solo strolls around the block instead. Hedy is willing and able to get this party started again, assuming someone volunteers to share the wealth with her. Interested co-leaders should contact Hedy directly via email at hedy01@mediationpaloalto.com

Speaking from the gut, I promised you a two pronged fitness approach and I intend to deliver. I'm once again collecting names of those interested in joining me for a series of pilates lessons at the Club. I've got a great instructor lined up but need fifteen to twenty members to make this viable. Lessons would be twice weekly but the day and time are still TBA. Please email me, melainebales@comcast.net, if you want to get in on the action. Your core will thank you!

On Saturday July 26th the committee gathered for our first workday. We cleaned and re-sealed the Ballroom wainscot, cleaned the Ballroom floor registers and outside light fixtures, swept the porches, removed carpet stains and polished the piano. We plan to have another workday later this fall to work on some general projects and the garden. We would love to have you join us. It's a lot of fun and a great way to get to know each other. Let me know if you are interested. You can also look for it on our calendar on our website.

We are very excited about these ambitious projects. Many thanks to our energetic and hard working committee members and co-presidents for all the accomplishments achieved this summer. Oh, and the next time your at the club, don't forget to take a peek in the kitchen at our shiny new stove.

-*Jana Stevens, H&G Chair*