

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 6 - Board Meeting 7:00pm (change of start time from 5pm)

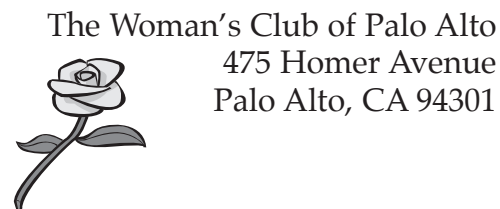
Thursday, January 7 - Drop In Social 5:00-7:00 pm  
Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122

Thursday, January 7-Special informational meeting of the general membership, 7-8:00pm at the Club.  
Topic will be financing of the bathroom remodel.

Thursday, January 14 - Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs at 7:00 pm at the Club House.  
This month's assigned movie is A SINGLE MAN featuring fabulous Colin Firth delivering an Oscar-worthy performance. Hosted by Melaine Bales and Jeanne Aufmuth.  
Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more information.

Wednesday, January 20 - Luncheon 11:30 am  
Firoozeh Dumas, author, *Funny in Farsi, Laughing without an Accent, Adventures of an Iranian American at Home and Abroad*  
HOSTED BY SARAH FRENCH & JULIE JEROME

Tuesday, January 26 - Book Group at 7:30 pm at the Club House  
Call Jeanne McDonnell 321 5260



[www.womansclubofpaloalto.org](http://www.womansclubofpaloalto.org)

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement

# The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

## January 2010 Newsletter

Co-Presidents: Christine Shambora, Sandra Pearson

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

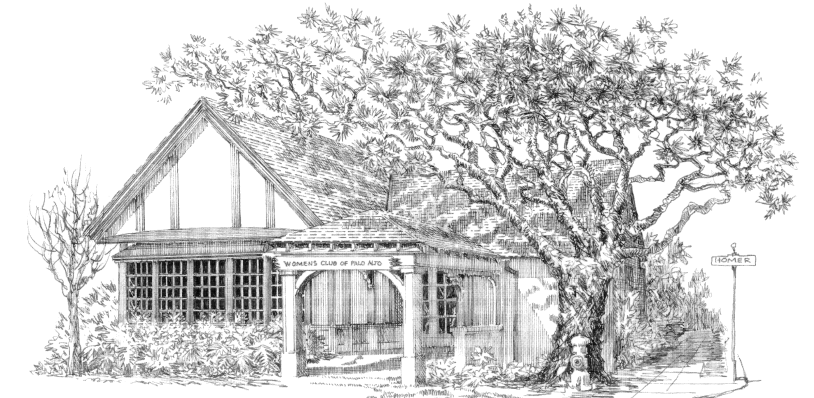
### Presidents' Message

We are now halfway through the "Woman's Club" year. At this time we would like to take the opportunity to write about our Board of Directors. Our Board is made up of both Directors and Officers, 14 members in all. In general officers have a specific responsibility while directors receive an assignment once they are elected. This year we have had the privilege to work with Anne Ercolani, Melaine Bales, Pat Sanders, Pat Davis, Lanie Wheeler, Judy Chang, Susan Hartzell, Jan Heilman, Joan Johnston, Joann Meredith, Vicki Sullivan and Jana Stevens. These women have served and contributed in important and significant ways. Their insights and perspectives have been invaluable to us as we work through some very challenging issues. While one always hopes for a Board that can work toward consensus it is also invaluable to have members who can share different points of view that represent the broad cross section of our membership. We have been blessed with both this year. Much credit for the composition of this Board has to go to the work of the nominating committee.

The benefits of serving on the Board are many. Board members acquire a more intimate understanding and enhanced appreciation for what it takes to keep the club running smoothly. Serving is an opportunity to work more closely with other club members and deepen our friendships with one another. These outcomes as well as others make membership and experience with the club richer as a result.

Though we still have several months to go we want to thank our current Board for stepping up to serve. We would also like to ask, "Are you ready to become more than a 'Wednesday'?"

*Presidents' letter continued on page 4*



Wednesday, January 20

**Firoozeh Dumas, author**  
*Funny in Farsi, Laughing without an Accent, Adventures of an Iranian American at Home and Abroad*

HOSTED BY  
SARAH FRENCH AND JULIE JEROME

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. Advanced registrations required.*

### Look Inside!

Book Club, History Corner,  
Outreach Report, Special All-Member Club Meeting, Kudos Corner, Nominating Committee, Simplicity Circle Information

[www.womansclubofpaloalto.org](http://www.womansclubofpaloalto.org)



## Book Group

**Tuesday, January 26, 2010 7:30 p.m.  
at the Woman's Club**

### *Dirt Music*

by **Tim Winton**

At every meeting, each person attending gives the book under discussion a number, one to five, five being rare, to indicate marvelous. In this Australia series, 5 has been unusually frequent. If you are not on the email reminder list and plan to attend, call me in case we need to change the meeting place.

We will share ideas in December and by email to choose our category for spring.

—Jeanne McDonnell, 321-5260

## Thank You Books, Inc.

A sincere thank you to Eric Peterson and Books, Inc. Palo Alto for another generous donation to the Woman's Club. As you know, 20% of all sales on December 6 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm, were donated to the Club. Our share of the proceeds totaled \$285 and this sum has been added to our general fund. Thanks for shopping and don't forget Books, Inc for all your book and gift needs throughout the year.

## Kudos Corner

- Enormous thanks to **Aino da Rosa** and **Delia Laitin** for the many hours they put in refining the plan for the bathroom remodel and meeting with contractors
- Applause to the December Committee **Chairs Jennifer Kleckner, Linda Bader** and **Donna Bohling** for putting together a fabulous party
- Appreciation and thanks to **Jeff Machado** from **Elegant Cuisine** who provided the paella, side dishes, appetizers and servers for our wonderful December party
- Thanks to **Michael Feuer** (husband of **Margaret**) and **Emily Renzel** who picked out, delivered and set up our beautiful holiday tree

## History Corner

### Credit Where Credit is Due

At a joint conference of the California Historical Society and the California Council for the Promotion of History in San Diego in 1994, Suzanne Hutton Beaver and I presented papers at a session we titled *A Many-Sided Affair: Preservation and Interpretation as a Process*. My talk, *Remains to be Seen*, referred to the Juana Briones house, a project still unresolved. Sue's, *American Heritage Is a Woman's Heritage*, related to her work at the Museum of American Heritage soon after its opening in 1990. Her extensive research revealed many examples of women's contributions to the topics of exhibits at the Museum about tools, patents, and cars.

One of Sue's insights for the tool exhibit related to cooperage, the art of barrel-making, which derived from women's long history as basket makers. Sue designed a wall display on Martha Coston, who in 1871 patented a system that used different colored fireworks, coded for communication between distant points, eventually adopted by navies worldwide, one patent of many by women. For the subject of cars, Sue included the information that Joan Neton Cuneo won numerous car races between 1905 and 1909, at which time the American Automobile Association banned women drivers and passengers in races they sponsored.

In my talk, I said that one endearing feature of the Juana Briones house at 4155 Old Adobe Rd. was residents attachment to it. Only three families had lived in it over its 150 years, and all had treasured it. (True, at the time, but now the owners prefer to demolish, a situation that continues to be contested.) I pointed out that our difficulties in preserving this gem, uniquely revealing of cultural history, were exacerbated because the history of women and of Hispanics has been trivialized. A book about California Historical Landmarks claimed that in San Francisco, of the very few that honored women there, all but one were performers. Statistics support the conclusion that a site associated with a male of stature equal to that of Juana Briones would long ago have been preserved for public education.

—Jeanne McDonnell

## Special Membership Meeting

By now you should have received a letter in the mail from the Presidents and Board of the Woman's Club. We will hold a special informational meeting on Jan. 7 from 7-8 pm at the Clubhouse. The topic will be the bathroom remodel and our plans to proceed. Attendance is not required but if you have questions or want to know more we welcome your attendance. The letter is posted on our web site under **membership** and then **announcements** in case you did not receive it in the mail.

## Community Outreach

We'd like to share with you the impact of our two events. Remember the goal of the committee is to give Woman's Club members the opportunity to learn more about local, need-based organizations.

After our Spring, 2009 Event, focusing on Downtown Streets Team, several members got involved. Paula Sandas offered to mentor a DST worker, and that woman spends several hours each Friday at the Chamber and is taking classes to improve her skills. Melaine Bales talked to her dentist about taking a DST worker as a patient, and he said yes. Sue Krumbein followed up, finding other options for dentistry, and now 4 DST workers who desperately need dental care are getting it. Jerry Krumbein mentors a DST manager, and Lolly Osborne will soon spend time gardening with another DST manager.

The fall, 2009 Program, featured Paula Keene from the Support Network for Battered Women, Once again, club members made a difference. Thanks to Cathy Dolton the Palo Alto First United Methodist Church Outreach Committee included the Support Network as a recipient of their *Joy of Giving Fund*. Liz Lillard made a connection between Support Network and Adolescent Counseling Services, as the battering of teens can be a problem with dating. Eileen Brooks had a friend who wanted to buy additional pins from Support Network, and she made a large purchase which directly benefits the organization.

Looking ahead, our committee plans other ways to reach out to you and our community. Watch for announcements in the newsletter, and let any committee member know if you have ideas to share. Our members are Eileen Brooks, Cathy Dolton, Sue Krumbein, Lolly Osborne, Carolyn Reese, Marilyn Simbeck, Vicki Sullivan and Sandy Voorhees.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE forming in January

The Nominating Committee for the 2010-2011 Board will be formed this month. Five (5) members and two (2) alternates will be elected to be on this committee. These seven people must have been Club members for at least two years and must be present at the January general meeting. They will meet immediately after the January luncheon, and as needed thereafter, to determine the Board nominations. The slate of nominees is presented to the Executive Board at its March meeting and to the membership at the March general meeting, when Board nominations are made.

If you would like to participate in the nomination process for next year's Board, please contact Anne Ercolani (aercola@attglobal.net or 650-852-0620) by January 10th.

## Simplicity Circles

Interested in exploring setting up a Simplicity Circle -- learning to cut back, live at a more leisurely pace, and enjoy life more? (Increasing your social networks brings more health, happiness, and longevity!) E-mail Cecile Andrews at [cecile@cecileandrews.com](mailto:cecile@cecileandrews.com). Cecile was the November speaker and is the author of *Less is More, Slow is Beautiful*, and *Circle of Simplicity*. For more information, call Cecile at 206 919 2614

Cecile Andrews, author of *Less Is More, Slow Is Beautiful*, and *Circle of Simplicity*  
<http://www.cecileandrews.com>

*Presidents' letter continued from page 1*

member?" Think seriously about the rewards you will receive and the service you can contribute by agreeing to serve either as a member of the nominating committee or as a nominee. To learn more about the Board please refer to pages 36-38 in your yearbook.

We look forward to the coming year by deepening our friendships, strengthening our community involvement, and enriching our personal growth, as well exploring ways to meet our financial obligations to maintain our historic clubhouse. Happy New Year.

Cordially,

Sandra and Christine