

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 3 - Board Meeting 5:00 pm At Lanie Wheeler's house, 362 Diablo Ct., PA.

Tuesday, February 9 - Drop In Social 5:00-7:00 pm

Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122. Call Celiene for location.

Thursday, February 11 - Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs at 7:00 pm at Mary Dowley's, 460 Maple St., PA..

Assigned movie AVATAR in 3D. Hosted by Melaine Bales and Jeanne Aufmuth.

Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more information.

Wednesday, February 17 - DINNER at 6 pm

An Evening of Barbershop Music including Singing Valentines

Peninsulares, an a cappella men's chorus.

HOSTED BY EILEEN BROOKS, DEANNA DICKMAN, SUE KRUMBEIN & LOLLY OSBORNE

Tuesday, February 23 - Book Group at 7:30 pm location to be determined

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

February 2010 Newsletter

Co-Presidents: Christine Shambora, Sandra Pearson

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

Presidents' Message

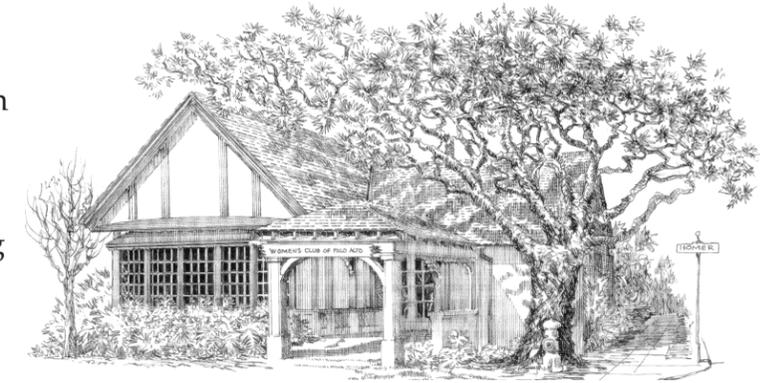
The women who bought the lot on Homer for \$1,125 and built an eclectic Tudor-Craftsman Style house in 1916 for \$6,425 left us an enduring legacy. They had a vision, they took a leap financially, and we are the beneficiaries. We continue to honor that legacy by upgrading and restoring the historic character of our clubhouse. We have now begun a major renovation of the bathrooms after two years of preparation and very hard work by many club members. The expected completion date will be early April and we appreciate your patience and cooperation during the construction.

For those of you who have recently done a remodel, you can appreciate the roller coaster ride those of us who have been intimately connected to this project have been on. We have felt the pressure of deadlines – to obtain the final set of drawings, to be granted a building permit (particularly challenging for an historic home which is open to the public), meeting ADA requirements, seeking recommendations for reliable contractors, reviewing bids, and ultimately wrestling with the reality of the costs of remodeling.

After your positive response to the letter we mailed to the membership in late December, and after extensive research and negotiations, we signed a contract with Mike Smith Construction. The cost of the remodel will be approximately \$105,000 with some allowance for contingencies. In addition to the \$50,000 originally budgeted for the project, we will use undesignated reserve funds to cover the additional cost.

The Board understands the importance of having an ongoing reserve fund to cover the

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Wednesday, February 17

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An a cappella chorus

An Evening of Barbershop Music
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HOSTED BY

EILEEN BROOKS, DEANNA DICKMAN,
SUE KRUMBEIN & LOLLY OSBORNE

6:00 Member and Guest Sign-in

6:30 Dinner is Served

**7:00 President's Welcome
Program & Dessert**

**Dinner is offered at \$5.00 for members, \$10 for
guests**

Look Inside!

Book Club, History Corner,
Outreach Report, Art Contest, Kitchen Tour,
Important Notice about Construction
Profile of our new custodian

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org



Book Group

Tuesday Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Call Jeanne for location 321-5260

***The Great Railway Bazaar* by Paul Theroux**

We have a list of suggested titles for spring relating mainly to travel in Asia, but we decided to start with the Theroux book, which will be a kind of introduction to the topic, and then select the other four at our January meeting.

If you are not on the email reminder list, please call Jeanne McDonnell, 321 5260, to confirm place of meeting, in case a change is necessary. .

-Jeanne McDonnell,

Reminder: Change in Guest Policy for Luncheons and Dinners

It is a continuing challenge to plan for the number of attendees at our luncheons and dinners. Therefore the Board has decided to reinstate the policy of requiring members bringing a guest to call ahead and notify the luncheon Committee hostess for that month no later than 48 hours before the date of the luncheon. The Board also decided to limit any guest to attending only one luncheon or dinner per year.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER continued from page 1

cost of maintaining our clubhouse for future renovations and repairs. To that end, we are exploring various fund development strategies and will be bringing those suggestions to the Board for review shortly.

We hope you are as excited as we are to finally be embarking on this long awaited project. We are confident it will be a beautiful renovation that will serve our club members and renters well.

Cordially,

Sandra and Christine

History Corner Mrs. Mabel McBride

.An important, even seminal figure, in Palo Alto in the late 1920s and early 1930s was Mrs. Mabel McBride. Indeed, she was Palo Alto's "official hostess" from 1927-1936. In May, 1950, Palo Alto resident, Mrs. Ray Whittern, recalled, among other things, Mrs. McBride's involvement in the annual May Fete. She remembered the parade down University Avenue, the squealing and barking of the pets, the community dance that climaxed the event, and Mrs. McBride.

As I read Mrs. Whittern's reminiscences, I wondered why I'd never heard of Mabel (Mrs. Frederick) McBride. She was a dynamic woman who loved her city and served it for almost a decade. She had a tall, commanding presence, beautiful white hair, snapping black eyes, and a keen sense of humor. She was a veteran of the Great War, joined YWCA volunteers to aid and feed the citizens of Prague after the conflict, and knew Czechoslovakia's first president, Thomas Masaryk.

Closer to home, Mrs. McBride was director of the Community Center from 1927 to 1936. In their early days, she involved herself in the activities of the Community Players, the Children's Theatre, and the Junior Museum. During her "hostess" years, she organized free, weekly Sunday afternoon concerts bringing artists and performers from all over the Bay Area to Palo Alto.

Mrs. Whittern mourned the death of her friend in 1947 at the age of seventy-five because she had made Palo Alto a "happier, healthier, more kindly, and more hospitable" place.

(Information and quotations from "*Festival and Pet Parade: Tribute paid Mrs. McBride; she was official city hostess.*" The Palo Alto Times, May 4, 1950)

—Peggy McKeel

The 2nd Annual Palo Alto Woman's Club Student Art Contest

**Saturday March 6, 2010, at Art For Well Beings
2460 Park Blvd. # 3 - Palo Alto.**

(Park and California -enter from parking lot behind Kinkos)

Winners of our contest will be judged at The Woman's Club District art contest on Monday March 8, 2010 and winners will go on to the State contest. For more information contact Judy Gittelsohn, 776-8297.

SAVE THE DATE 2nd Annual Kitchen Tour Saturday, May 15, 2010

5 Fabulous Palo Alto Kitchens

Tickets available at February 17 Meeting \$30.00

Help support Philanthropy,
and House & Grounds

For more information contact
Debbie Nichols – 650.329.8558

Meet Silvia Ceja Lamarque, our new Custodian.

Silvia began working for the Woman's Club in November 2009 and has been a delightful addition to our Club. Originally from Otates, Mexico, Silvia and her husband Martin lived with club member, Emily Renzel, for 5 years before buying a home in Menlo Park. Emily describes Silvia as a very resourceful person and above all, an extraordinary Mother. Silvia and Martin have 3 children, Yoali, 19, who attends UC Santa Cruz, Alan, 14, a freshman at Paly and Sara Emilia (named after Emily) who will be entering kindergarten soon as a Tinsley student. Silvia has been an active volunteer at Parents Nursery School where her children attended. She and Martin volunteer with "Hand-in-Hand" a parent support organization. In her spare time Silvia enjoys walking but most of all she loves being a mother. Please welcome Silvia and compliment her on how lovingly she cares for our clubhouse.

Christine Shambora

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Member Guidelines during Construction

- Schedule all committee meetings off site
- There will be no permitted access to the clubhouse except for the general meetings on February 17 and March 17.
- During these meetings bathroom facilities will be limited to the "port-a-potty" outside the kitchen door so please be prepared.
- Please do not enter the clubhouse for any reason during the construction period.
- If you have any questions or concerns during the construction period please contact either Christine or Sandra

Community Outreach

As the new year begins, the Outreach Committee is busy with plans. The first thing we're going to do is mount a display at the March 17th luncheon, showing the programs that we sponsored in 2009. When you come to the March luncheon, make sure to check out our boards and talk to committee members about the groups we've helped and the form that help took. If the work inspires you, perhaps you'll want to join our committee.

In October, 2010, we are going to be in charge of the luncheon program, featuring a local organization that does good work and that we think would interest and inspire you. We know that the membership is interested in our programs, which is why we are going to make them part of the regular luncheon series.

The Outreach program at Woman's Club has really made a difference for various local organizations, including Downtown Streets Team, Support Network for Battered Women, the Rosalie Rendu Center, St. Elizabeth Seton School, and the Belle Haven Library. Thank you for your interest and support!

—Sue Krumbain