

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

November 2010 Newsletter

Co-Presidents: Christine Shambora, Sandra Pearson

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

Presidents' Letter

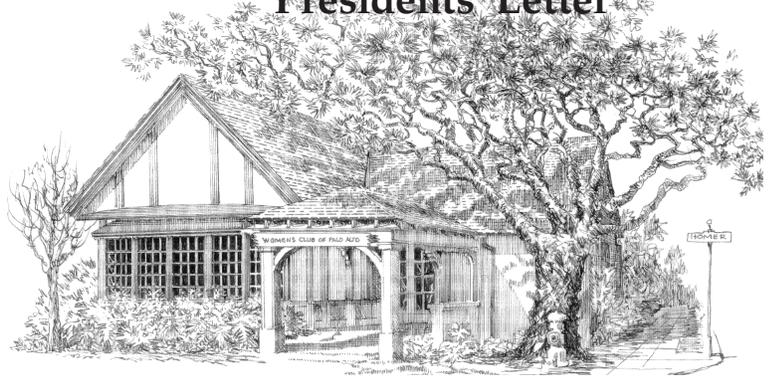
Since first attending a Woman's Club luncheon ten years ago, I have always been touched by the reading of the Collect. Recently, I had the good fortune to hear the His Holiness the Dalai Lama speak at Stanford. As he entered Maples Pavilion, the sold-out crowd immediately fell silent. And as he spoke, we were transfixed in his presence. He clearly has an inner peace, a serenity that seemed to affect everyone in the pavilion. He spoke about compassion, happiness, and the importance of building a community. He stressed that personal happiness can be found in many dimensions, not only through belief in a world religion. Throughout his speech he spoke eloquently about individual values – friendship, integrity, compassion, and empathy – the same qualities that we hold dear within our club.

When I returned home that day, I had an email from Judith Steiner, who generously had accepted in the 11th hour to serve as the luncheon chair this month. She happily reported that within a day of sending out an urgent request for the October luncheon committee to sign up for the various work groups, she'd had an enormously positive response from almost everyone within the first 24 hours! In addition, Susie Richardson and Eileen Brooks had volunteered to do the pumpkin centerpieces filled with donations for Haven House. Our club members not only are generous, but very creative, too! This is just one important aspect of being a part of our community.

Your generous donations to Haven House at the October luncheon are another example of your commitment to our greater community. We as a board are focusing on ways to strengthen our woman's club community. We are delighted with the strong participation each of the interest groups and committees are enjoying so far. You are finding ways to connect with others in the community.

We admire all of the ways that you are finding to

(continued on page 4)



Wednesday, November 17

Pamela Antil

Palo Alto Assistant City Manager

Challenges and Opportunities in Palo Alto

HOSTED BY NANCY KALKBRENNER & KAY SABIN

PLEASE CARPOOL IF POSSIBLE

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. Call Nancy Kalkbrenner for guest reservations 327.8154.

Look Inside!

Book Club, History Corner,
Kudos Corner, House and Grounds,
Community Outreach, Hiking Group,
Knit/Stitch Group, In Memoriam

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org



Book Group

Tuesday, November 23

7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse

No Great Mischief by Alistair MacLeod

We have been moving around Canada topically and geographically. The author of this novel tells us of descendants of a Scottish immigrant family living in Cape Breton, an island off the coast of Nova Scotia. If you are not on the email list for the group reminders, check with me about the date. We sometimes change from the 4th Tuesday during holiday weeks

Featuring Canadian Authors

Dec. 28 Alice Munro, *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*

Jan. 25 W. O. Mitchell, *Who Has Seen the Wind*

—Jeanne McDonnell,

(Contact me for questions or if you are not on email list.)

KUDOS CORNER

The Community Outreach Committee, for putting on such an inspiring program about Haven House

Woman's Club Members, who contributed so many needed essentials for Haven House

Judith Steiner, who so graciously stepped forward to chair the October Lunch Committee on very short notice

Douce France, who provided our box lunches for the October Luncheon at a very generous discount

Dr. Kristian Koszeghy, Eileen Brooks dentist who donated 144 toothbrushes for our centerpieces and Haven House

Helen Gracon, for all her efforts on the Rentals Marketing Committee especially the wonderful publicity postcard she prepared for the Club.

History Corner The Woman's Club and Palo Alto's First Library

We all know what a pivotal role the Woman's Club played in the community, but sometimes it is worth reflecting on our contributions. If you have read Tom Wyman's pamphlet, "Palo Alto and Its Libraries," published by the Palo Alto Historical Association, you are familiar with the evolution of the Palo Alto Library system and the Woman's Club's involvement. In 1895, the "ladies of the club" took the initiative: they voted to raise money and rent space to support a reading room. Stanford Professor Arley Show encouraged their effort with a talk on "The Need and Values of Town Libraries." By August, 1896, the Woman's Club had acquired several shelves of books as well as "the assets of the YMCA reading room," furniture and all. Under the leadership of its first president, Mrs. Mary G. Campbell, the Club opened the Free Reading Room in February, 1897. More book socials and community support enabled the Woman's Club to move the reading room to a larger space, and in 1899, to hire a librarian, Anne Hadden, a student and assistant librarian at Stanford. Miss Hadden earned a salary of \$15 per month and replaced Club secretary Anita Corbett, who had cared for the book and periodical collection as a volunteer.

In 1899, Palo Alto leaders augmented the Woman's Club's financial backing of the library by allocating the princely sum of \$20 a month to support its operation. The Woman's Club continued its commitment to the library and held periodic fund-raisers, such as lectures by David Starr Jordan, a program by the Young Ladies Cycling Club, and sponsoring a Thanksgiving Day football game between University Avenue businessmen. There was no stopping the Woman's Club: in 1901, the women circulated and secured signatures on a petition compelling the Town Board to establish an official Palo Alto Public Library. In 1902, the Club transferred its library assets to the City of Palo Alto, and the library became a town service and responsibility. In October, 1902, a 5-member Board of Library Trustees took office, with not a woman among them. The Town Board had specified that women not be allowed to serve as library trustees. The Woman's Club was unwilling to accept the fiat and protested indignantly and vigorously. Former Woman's Club president, Mrs. Julia Gilbert, who had worked indefatigably for the library, secured an appointment to the Board of Library Trustees! We have much to thank our founding mothers and sisters for!

—Peggy McKee

Presidents' letter continued

participate and gain satisfaction from your membership. Above all, as we pledge each month through the Collect, let us not forget to be kind! As His Holiness the Dalai Lama reminds us, "We all have the desire to achieve a happy life. Happiness however comes from within each of us. Friendship is key to building a community."

*Cordially,
Christine and Sandra*

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Hiking Group

The WC has a rejuvenated (and rejuvenating) walking group! Interested in participating? Contact by phone or email either Sarah French (814.0753) or Donna Bohling (619.6116). Our plan is to do local walks on alternating Friday mornings at 9am. We will try and stick to the second and fourth Fridays.

The first walk was on October 8 (there were 5 participants) and the second was on October 22. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the November walk schedule is Friday Nov 5th and Nov 19th. All walks leave from the Interpretive Center at the Baylands promptly at 9am. The November walkers can discuss other locations for walks in December and January.

We currently have approximately 30 people who have indicated interest and if you want to be added to the email list, please notify VIA EMAIL either Sarah or Donna.

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House and Grounds

As I write, the hardscape portion of the Cowper Street Landscaping Project is in progress. The contractor will do the job in sections, with the whole thing completed in early to mid November. Then we'll have irrigation installed and do some planting. Thanks to Delia Laitin and Caroline Willis for a very sharp design. I'm sure we'll all enjoy that entrance, as will caterers who work in our kitchen.



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Community Outreach Committee

Thank you for the outpouring of donations for Haven Family House. The October 20th luncheon was such a wonderful event for both Haven Family House and the Woman's Club. Chris, Stephanie, Pam and Maria felt so welcome, and clearly members who attended the luncheon were thrilled and amazed to hear about the work this group is doing. It is clear that our membership looks forward to other opportunities to help this very important and successful local organization. If you want to make a donation and were unable to do that, email Sue Krumbein at suekrumbein@yahoo.com to make arrangements.

In November, we will sponsor a book drive. The Community Outreach Committee supports the National Initiative of the Woman's Club to focus on collecting books during November - National Literacy Month. Bring books for children, new or slightly used, from picture books (most needed) to young adult novels, to the November 17th Woman's Club luncheon! We will distribute them to various groups, depending on need.

—Sue Krumbein, Chair

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Knitting/Stitch Group

If you have been on pins and needles waiting for the Knitting/Stitch Group to begin the time has finally arrived. We will have our first meeting on Friday, November 5 at 1pm at the Clubhouse. Please join us and bring a project to work on if you want. We have the whole range of abilities from beginners to experts so come even if you have never knitted a stitch before. We will discuss how we should proceed and when and how often to meet. For questions, contact Christine Shambora (christine@theshamboras.com).

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Davey, a 15 year member of the Woman's Club and a noted advocate for social and environmental causes died on October 2. Mary was the current president of Midpeninsula Open Space District. Her leadership and involvement in many important organizations on the Peninsula exemplified her passion for caring about people and the environment. Her selfless devotion to community service serves as a model for current and future generations. She will be deeply missed.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 3 - Board Meeting 5:00 pm at the Club House

Tuesday, November 9 - Drop In Social 5:00-7:00 pm at the Club House
Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122. .

Thursday, November 11 - Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs at 7:00 pm at the Club House
This month's movie *To be announced later in an email*

Hosted by Melaine Bales Hennessey and Jeanne Aufmuth. Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more info.

Wednesday, November 17 - Luncheon at 11:30 am at the Club House

Pamela Antil, Palo Alto Assistant City Manager: Challenges and Opportunities in Palo Alto
HOSTED BY NANCY KALKBRENNER & KAY SABIN

Tuesday, November 23 - Book Group at 7:30 pm at the Club House
Call Jeanne McDonnell 321 5260



The Woman's Club of Palo Alto
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www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement