

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

October 2010 Newsletter

Co-Presidents: Christine Shambora, Sandra Pearson

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

Presidents' Letter

What a perfect launch of our new year! Our speaker, Mary Hughes, inspired us to consider our responsibility and opportunity to support qualified women running for public office. Many of us may have entered our "3rd chapter," a perfect time to commit ourselves to making a difference in our community and country.

Our own community involvement is growing dramatically. Over 40 members have volunteered to serve on the Philanthropy Committee. We have an active Outreach Committee focusing on ways for us to contribute goods or services to Haven House, one of the recipients of our philanthropy awards last spring. At the October luncheon, we'll launch this year's initiative.

We are pleased to announce that Sue Krumbein has accepted the Chair of House and Grounds. It's important to us to maintain the beauty of our historic clubhouse and to plan for on-going improvements. We are currently developing a long-range strategic plan to ensure that we make fiscally sound decisions as we plan for the future. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact one of us for more information.

One of primary goals this year is to improve communication. How can we gather your ideas? How can we share information from the Board? We wonder how many actually read the newsletter. If you do, what sections are most important to you? We are considering conducting a survey (through survey monkey). In the meantime, we have initiated the Suggestion Box. We were delighted to receive six suggestions at the September luncheon. Next month,

(continued on page 3)



Wednesday, October 20

Chris Canter

Director of Haven House in Menlo Park

A discussion of Haven's residential program to host, provide job search help and a Child Development Center for homeless families.

HOSTED BY CAROL MACPHERSON

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 Carol MacPherson for
guest reservations 493-2930.**

Look Inside!

Book Club, History Corner,
Kudos Corner, Yearbook Update,
Community Outreach Invitation
Board Liaison Assignments



Book Group

Tuesday October. 26, 7:30 p.m.

The Tin Flute

(original title *Bonheur d'Occasion*)

On Tuesday, October 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Club, Ellie Heister will lead our discussion of *The Tin Flute* (original title *Bonheur d'Occasion*) by Gabrielle Roy, a French Canadian. Books to follow are:

Featuring Canadian Authors

- Nov. 23 (unless we adjust for Thanksgiving)
Alistair MacLeod, *No Great Mischief*
- 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

Sandy Voorhees, 2nd VP, for graciously welcoming our new members.

Fran Titterton, for providing invaluable support for the new member reception.

Jana Stevens, for donating her professional expertise (and a price break compliments of Phoenix Systems) for installation of the new speakers and wireless microphones.

Sue Krumbein for accepting House and Grounds chair.

Julie Jerome and Barb Spreng for Board Development.

Julie Jerome, Joann Meredith and Barb Spreng for our new photo yearbook to be distributed at the October Luncheon

Delia Laitin & Caroline Willis for their work on the Cowper side landscaping plan.

History Corner The Ebell Club

What fun to receive the fall Newsletter with its announcement of club activities and the long, impressive list of new members. Clearly, our club is thriving! Alas, the same cannot be said for all women's clubs. "The membership of the General Federation of Women's Clubs is 10% of what it was in the middle of the last century...." In August, 2010, a New York Times article began, "A Club Tries to Remain Relevant in Los Angeles." The stories of the Ebell Club and ours are somewhat parallel.

The Ebell Club, a social club for women in Los Angeles, was established in 1897 and had its own building by 1927. The clubhouse was designed by architect Sumner Hunt in the Italian Renaissance style and has recently achieved national landmark status. It's a beautiful structure complete with a grand entrance on Wilshire Boulevard and elegant space for weddings and other celebrations. For a time, "the Ebell was one of the largest and most elite clubs in the nation...." In the 1920s, it has a membership of 2500. Like other clubs of that era, the ladies tended to be wealthy, white, and mostly married; they were seeking opportunities to meet, hear lectures, discuss literature, sing, study, and – essentially – socialize. The Ebell newsletter described activities that included gardening, art appreciation, and Shakespeare. Like other women's clubs, the Ebell evolved over time to invite and include minority women, who had originally not been welcomed. The present president, Shirlee Haizlip, is an African-American woman who is working to increase membership and to publicize the relevance of the Ebell Club for women in the 21st century. She and her board are reaching out to women in their 30s and 40s who want programs more diverse, timely, and compelling than those originally offered by women's clubs. Ms. Haizlip is successfully dealing with issues familiar to women's clubs across the nation. If you want to know more about the Ebell Club, visit its website (<http://www.ebellclub.com/>) or read the Wikipedia article (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebell_of_Los_Angeles)

Some of our members may remember the challenges our club faced in the 1990s, and our happy outcome in the 21st century.

—Peggy McKee

Presidents' letter continued

we'll place feedback forms on the tables, so you can complete the forms at your leisure and drop them in the box in the foyer at the end of the meeting.

Many of your ideas are most effectively channeled through your participation in the various committees or interest groups. The committees have great leeway in decision-making and setting their own agendas. An issue needs to come to the Board for a discussion or decision only if there is a monetary issue, or change in procedure. Each chair has a liaison to the Board. Members of the Board welcome your feedback. We are including in this newsletter, the Board member who is the liaison for each committee. We believe this is a significant step to improving communication. We want you to stay in touch!

*Cordially,
Christine and Sandra*



Got An Idea?

Use our Suggestion Box on the hall table to have your voice heard.

Response forms will be available on tables during the October luncheon.



Board Liaisons to Woman's Club Committees

- Policies and Procedures: ...Anne Ercolani
- Finance:Joan Johnston
- Luncheon:Paula Sandas
- House and Grounds:Eileen Brooks
- Community Outreach:Vicki Sullivan or Eileen Brooks
- Philanthropy:Susan Hartzell
- Special Events:Bobbie Fox
- Kitchen Tour:Joann Meredith
- Membership:Sandy Voorhees

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Committee of the Palo Alto Woman's Club Invites you to join us at the October 20th luncheon To hear about the Committee's focus for this year:

Haven Family House

When: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Woman's Club of Palo Alto Clubhouse

Why: Learn about Haven Family House and Their Work with Homeless Families

What Bring a Donation of Supplies or Needs for the Kitchen, Bathroom, or Bedroom

Please check the list of Haven Family House needs at:

<http://www.womansclubofpaloalto.org/wcpa/Announcements.html>

For Further Information, email Sue Krumbein

Reserved Tables for New Members

Members: please note that there will be 2 tables with white table cloths that will be reserved for new members.

—Thank you, Sandy Voorhees



New Photo Directories

The annual directories will be distributed at the October luncheon. If you cannot attend, please authorize a friend to pick up your copy. Remember to check the label for your luncheon assignment. Note also some email addresses (and other contact information) might have changed.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 6 - Board Meeting 5:00 pm at the Club House

Tuesday, October 12 - Drop In Social 5:00-7:00 pm at the Club House
Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122. .

Thursday, October 14 - 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*

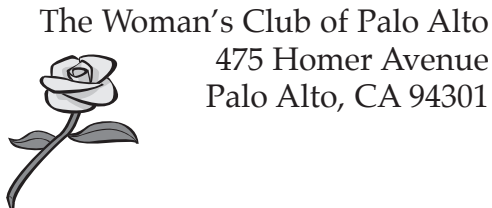
Hosted by Melaine Bales and Jeanne Aufmuth. Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more information.

Wednesday, October 20 - Luncheon at 11:30 am at the Club House

Chris Cantor, Director of Haven House in Menlo Park: A discussion of Haven's residential program to host, provide job search help and a Child Development Center for homeless families

HOSTED BY CAROL MACPHERSON

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



www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement